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The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.
ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1905.

A HINT TO INVESTORS.

(25th March.)

The decision of the Straits Government to withhold from the shareholders of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company the 15 per cent. compensation which they claimed over and above the actual value of the property which the Government have appropriated is likely to lead to much misgiving on the part of those who have invested their money in similar undertakings. It simply means that the Government are in a position to over-ride the law, which in the Straits, recognises the right of those whose land has been compulsorily acquired, to 15 per cent. compensation. So well understood is the law on the point, and so frequently has it been exercised in favour of those whose property had been taken for administrative or other purposes, that the 15 per cent. compensation was a settled principle in the legal world. On the plea that the purchase and sale of land was not the main object of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company, the Government have arrogated the right of the shareholders to compensation. They claimed that this appropriation was not a compulsory acquisition of land, but a compulsory change of investment. To the mere outsider that seems to be quibbling with words. It certainly shows marvellously little consideration for the shareholder, who is tossed backwards and forwards at the whim of the Government like an impotent shuttlecock. What is worse, it may be taken as a precedent when other schemes of similar import emanate from that august body, the "Colonial" Office. The rights of private citizens in this part of the world may not be very great, but they are at least worth some attention, although the apparently high-handed action of the Straits Government does not lend colour to the idea that any attention was given to that side of the question. From the point of view of the average investor there is much that remains inexplicable in the action of the Straits Government. After many years of hard work, the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company had built up a business that was of supreme importance to the port of Singapore. Shareholders had relinquished part of their dividends in order that the scope of the Company's operations might be enlarged, and the works developed. They had done so with the object of benefiting in the future from their immediate self-sacrifice—all to no purpose. They had acquired lands in the vicinity of the docks, laying in view the expansion of their business. Now the Government comes along and says that these lands are part and parcel of the Company's business, and, consequently, no compensation is due. Day to day these lands are exceedingly valuable; had it not been for the efforts of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company the lands would have been practically worthless. Before the Company started operations, Tanjong Pagar was a mere swamp, valueless to anybody except a few Malay fishermen. The Company drained the ground, reclaimed it, and converted the swamp into an important property. It is true that the Company acquired the land on cheap terms from the Government, but is that any reason why they should now be penalised for their foresight and energy? If the Government had intended to utilise the land, they should have maintained a firm grip on it from the first. In that case shareholders would have received their dividends in full, knowing how precarious was the tenure on which they held the property, and the vast work of progress at Tanjong Pagar would have remained half finished. It would seem that the more a corporation does to improve the face of the earth, the less consideration it does it get. The speculator in land would appear to have the best of it, for his only object is to hold the property until it becomes valuable through the energy of his neighbours. In Hongkong land speculation was an extremely profitable game, at one time; but as far as it lay in the power of the Government the system was adopted of restricting the area of the ground to be sold, in order that people of small means might have an opportunity of submitting bids. The result was that the sites were acquired by people who proposed to erect residences on the ground, and to have an abiding interest in the Colony. It could not be argued that the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company secured their land for other than business purposes, and to say that because that land is necessary to the future development of the docks and therefore not entitled to be considered in a claim for compensation, seems ridiculous on the face of it. The Company, we maintain, should have the benefit of their foresight. If the Government contend, as they do, that Tanjong Pagar Dock Company have the monopoly of warehouse accommodation, and water frontage who is to blame unless it be the Government? However, the fact remains that the shareholder has been quietly shelled, his claims disregarded, and his interests thrown aside. It is his duty to remain humble, to believe that all things are for the best, and to reflect that if he has not himself materially profited by the so-called "compulsory acquisition," he has benefited hundreds of his fellow-citizens, not only in Singapore, but in every part of the world. This may be a pleasant thought, but he is a philosopher who can appreciate it. To Hongkong investors the crux of the question lies in the consideration of what would happen

should the Colonial Office see fit to exploit their superabundant energies on this Colony. It is there that the Straits precedent should prove of valuable service in causing Hongkong investors to guard against any similar diversion of the funds to which they might legitimately due.

PEACE IN SOMALILAND.

(27th March.)

There is no getting away from the fact that what the British trader often forgets, that the commercial track he treads daily is almost invariably marked by the blood of his country's troops. Indeed, when we come to study the history of the growth of the British Empire for the last three centuries, at almost every point the conclusion is forced home, that the great war-maker has been the peace-loving trader himself. He demands new markets for British manufactures and the security of the old ones; and the result is that vast areas of territory are absorbed without any regard to the responsibilities connected with them. Telegraphic information has lately been received from General Swayne, the Commissioner and Consul General for the Somaliland Protectorate, telling that Muhammad Abdullah, or "the Mad Mullah," has sent a deputation to Berbera, and that peace has been concluded. This news will be received with satisfaction as bringing to a close a melancholy affair with a Mussulman zealot for the possession of a slice of an African province only a little smaller than France. Moreover, it should teach us that if we gain advantages by widening our boundaries, we also incur responsibilities in securing for its inhabitants the opportunity for that prosperity which is undoubtedly a needful basis of civilisation. The little war has been going on for the greater part of five years, and we are afraid that the bill in blood and treasure when it comes to be totted up, will be a rather alarming one. It was unfortunate that the magnitude of the Mullah's movement was not realised long since, when if the region was thought to be worth fighting for, a properly equipped expedition might have been organised at the outset. This, of course, is where the mistake was made. It was our business, in return for the territory, to have stopped the devastation that was being committed by the mad Prophet, and instead of this we failed to give the gallant Colonel forces sufficient for the undertaking. For three years, in three distinct campaigns, weak detachments were despatched to Somaliland, and on each occasion the marauder handled them severely. The Mullah was no new and unknown enemy. Practically ever since Great Britain assumed the protectorate of Somaliland in 1884 he had been a more or less conspicuous figure in Somali life, and although it was so long after as March of 1890 that the real story opened, we might have learned that he was no ordinary peasant making pilgrimages to Mecca and, therefore, not to be regarded in the light of a militant saint. Five years ago the British Consul General at Berbera learned that a Mullah, or Prophet, was collecting arms and men on the southern confines of Somaliland, and did not at first regard his doings with much interest. Correspondence was exchanged, and the man seemed a model Mullah, and considered as being upon the side of law and order. A few weeks later, however, he threw off his mask, and showed himself in his real light by raiding tribes within British territory. After one of his invasions of Abyssinia and Somaliland, in the course of which a large number of natives were killed or enslaved, the Emperor Menelik and the British Government each sent out an expedition to effect his capture. The former was unsuccessful, but the British force was more fortunate, as it succeeded in dispersing the forces of the fanatic who, however, managed to escape and take refuge for several months among the Dalmanti tribe to the Southwest of our territory. Not long afterwards he again assembled some of his partisans and again invaded British Somaliland, attacking the tribes under the protection of our Government, which then sent a new expedition against him. Things, however, appeared to go badly with our own forces, and urgent appeals for more men from the officers conducting the war met with an indifferent response. The attitude of the Mullah grew more and more menacing, and it was found useless to leave him alone, for the moment that Abdullah found himself unopposed he took the aggressive. At length, after a series of reverses the Government realised that, at whatever cost, the Mad Mullah should be disposed of finally, and so drew upon India for reinforcements, and not until these men were to hand was Colonel Swayne able to extricate himself from a tight corner. The small war developed into a big campaign which has since been shown to have been adequate to prevent the Mad Mullah from menacing Somaliland. It is to be hoped that the Government will be able to satisfy the British nation that the game was really worth the candle. On broad bounds we can see no vestige of an excuse for an attempt on the part of Great Britain to exercise sovereignty in Somaliland. We have no benefits to confer, and nothing whatever to gain. Neither have we made pretence of taking up the white man's burden, and certainly have acknowledged no duties to the tribes from whom we expect obedience.

PIRACY IN SOUTH CHINA.

(28th March.)

Those who go down to the China Sea in ships and have the misfortune to be stranded anywhere in the neighbourhood of land

are apt to get a view of certain rakish craft manned by Chinese crews. They are usually pirate-boats, many of which have for years been sailed up and down the coast preying upon the smaller commerce and making rich hauls of booty whenever an ocean-going steamer has come to grief, and been left to the mercy of wind and waves. Pirates have held full sway over Kwangtung and Kwangsi almost from time immemorial, and of recent years their depredations have even more barefaced and more serious than ever was the case before. It was not very long since that a houseboat containing a party of foreigners from Canton was attacked and several of them wounded, while one of their native boatmen was killed. Before the pirates were driven away. This was followed, a little while later, by the murder of a British subject on board a junk, and numerous piracies on the Canton River. The Chamber of Commerce urged the Government to make early and strong representations to H.M. Minister at Peking, and H.B.M. Consul-General at Canton with a view to adequate pressure being brought by them on the Chinese authorities to institute and keep up a proper patrol of the waters of the Delta. For some time two Chinese gunboats, under European command, patrolled the river, and for the time being put a stop to the depredations of these desperate rovers. As soon as a piracy was reported the warships proceeded to the scene; but by this time the pirates were peacefully at work in the fields, and directly the gunboats cruised off they threw aside the hoe for the blunderbuss and got afloat in their snakeboats awaiting the coming of a junkload of merchandise. And so affairs have continued ever since, and might have been left unheeded were not attention again directed to their doings by the looting and destruction committed aboard of the stranded *Baron Gordon* and *Shrewsbury*. The agents of the vessels will doubtless demand an explanation, and possibly an example will be made of somebody in China. It is to be hoped, however, that they will not stop short of one solitary punishment. The Delta of the Canton River appears to be the happy hunting ground of all the criminal classes of China, in times of poverty it is the rendezvous of the most desperate drogs of the Chinese race, and those members of society whose heads are at a premium find with the pirate bands of South China a safe and profitable asylum. One would have thought at any rate that occasional collisions would be heard of between the gunboats of the government and the piratical launches and junks. But as a matter of fact such events are seldom noted, and when they are it generally amounts to nothing more than the loss of a few heads and a dollar or two in the pocket of some official. The Chinese authorities, if approached by the British Government, would doubtless profess themselves powerless to deal with the question; but that would be by no means surprising. What, however, does strike us as peculiar is that the Powers in general, and that Great Britain in particular, has not struck a blow at the heart of the traffic and rendered its existence impossible long ago. Piracy on the West River is much too common an occurrence to surprise either the Chinese or Western traders, whose business necessitates the use of the principal channels. Familiarity with this sort of thing seems to have bred contempt of it among the Chinese, and until some energetic action is taken by one or other of the Powers to suppress it by rooting out the whole nest of pirates both on the Delta and along the coast, the nefarious business will find its followers much to the annoyance of foreigner and native alike.

AMERICA FEARS JAPANESE IMMIGRATION.

(29th March.)

In a recent telegram it was announced that the Immigration Bureau of the United States, acting on a requisition from Texas, had decided that Japanese were not entitled to papers of citizenship in America. We commented, at the time, on the immense problem which faced the Federal Government in attempting to restrain the immigration of Japanese to America, and the power of the Japanese to enforce what they and others might consider legitimate demands. From San Francisco papers which have just come to hand, it appears that the Japanese invasion of the United States has become a question of supreme importance. A remarkable series of articles entitled "The Problem of the Hour" and dealing with the immigration of the Japanese has just appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and as the articles are framed in sober language, and the question considered in a most logical spirit, they are decidedly worthy of attention. The writer, who prefers to remain anonymous, recalls the methods adopted to exclude the Chinese from the United States, and warns the people of that country, and especially California, to awaken to the "far more serious and more formidable problem of an influx of Japanese." While granting a need of admiration to the Japanese for their energy and intelligence, the writer maintains that to allow them free ingress to America would in no way advance, but rather retard the world's progress. "It is stated that there are something like 100,000 Japanese in the States, of whom at least 35,000 are settled in California. The race problem is, therefore, a very vital question to the people of the western States, and it is argued that the same restrictions which are in force against the indiscriminate admission of Chinese should be enacted in the case of the Japanese. The writer of these articles is very

strongly against the Asiatic. He remarks: "The Asiatic can never be other than an Asiatic, however much he may imitate the dress of the white man, learn his language and spend his wages for him. Nor will he ever have the slightest concern with our laws except to evade them, nor with our Government except to cajole it and to deceive it. The Japanese in California is just as intensely, eternally, and essentially Japanese as though he had never left Yokohama or the rice fields of his native country." He comments upon the anti-foreign sentiment which prevails in Japan and quotes a European writer's statement (Mr. R. Van Bergen) that the anti-foreign feeling is shared equally by all classes, the Government and a very few notable persons excepted. It is pointed out that the Japanese are intensely conservative at heart and protectionist in spirit. White men taught them all they know of the handicrafts of civilisation, but once the brains of these white men had been thoroughly sifted they were quickly sent back to their homes. Their presence in Japan was not tolerated for a moment when the Japanese found themselves competent to undertake the work. "The Japanese," the writer goes on to say, "is too patriotic to needlessly employ foreigners at the expense of his own people, but there are some Americans who would employ devils if they would accept a cent an hour less than angels." When the war with Russia is concluded, Japan will be over-run by thousands of discharged soldiers, for whom work must be found. If that work is not forthcoming, the Japanese, according to this reviewer, will invade America, and as they are willing to work for wages which could not maintain a white man their presence in the United States will be a constant menace to the labouring classes. Moreover, the Japanese are well-acquainted with the power of organisation and the capabilities of the boycott system; indeed, it is said they have reduced these principles to a fine point, so that should they get a footing on American soil they would speedily become a permanent danger to white labour. Again, Japan has not sent her fittest to the United States; it is the scum, those for whom no place can be found in Japan itself. Reference is made to the fact that the Japanese do not mingle with the population; they are not assimilated to the American people. The most ignorant Slav, after three generations, is a true-born American, an integral part of the State, filled with the ideals and independence of the American citizen. But the Japanese still remains Japanese clinging to his own customs and people, refusing to associate with white men, and ever ready to take advantage of any opportunity which may lead to power over or against white men. It is even maintained that the Japanese immigrant is more objectionable than the Chinese. The conclusion, it is said, should a Japanese invasion be permitted, the American labourer will be forced into hobnobbing and criminality by the fierce competition of the degraded Asiatic labour, and that it behoves all good Americans to rigorously push forward a crusade against Japanese immigration.

"TO HONGKONG AND FARTHER."

(March 30th.)

Several cases have recently come before the Marine Court of Hongkong in which sailors have been charged with impeding the progress of their ships by refusing to work. The defence in two cases reported yesterday was that the men had signed agreements to the effect that they would go to "Hongkong or farther." The men, in both the instances referred to, were firmly of opinion that on reaching Hongkong their agreements expired—despite the fact that they had only served two of the three months for which they had signed—and sixteen Spaniards went to prison for two months' martyrdom to their belief. The agreements were produced in Court, and it was quite clear that the men were in the wrong; but it can readily be understood that a phrase, the meaning of which is patent to an educated man, may convey some totally different idea to a foreign sailor. It was the words—"To Hongkong and farther" on which the seamen tripped. What they thought "farther" signified it would be curious to learn; the probability is that if they looked at the map they would not find a place of that name, and therefore they might come to the conclusion that it was a mere finish to the sentence—a sort of rounding-off period which added to the euphony of the whole. But there is deeper significance in that term, "to Hongkong and farther" than appears at first sight. Both boats on which trouble with the crew occurred carried cargoes of coal from Cardiff, and both were bound for the East, having apparently no particular destination in view. They were sent to Hongkong, and finding how matters stood they were both ordered to Japan. But had there been a Russian fleet in these waters their eventual destination might have been Vladivostok, and then we should have had the entertaining spectacle of the Russian besieged embracing their Finnish and Spanish deliverers. "To Hongkong and farther" was a clever conceit, subtle of meaning, and hinting at immense possibilities. Unfortunately, the crews were not alive to the humour of the situation, and the Spaniards are not suffering from the lack of one of nature's greatest gifts.

THE TERMS OF PEACE.

Since the fall of Mukden, persistent reports have been in circulation that one of the belligerents has made overtures for peace.

Whether it is Russia or Japan which is now suing for a cessation of hostilities is not so important as the character of the agreement upon which the conditions of peace would be based. The American press, taking it for granted that the President of the United States will be called upon to act as intermediary, publish various sets of conditions which are alleged to be the preliminary bases of negotiations, and it is a curious fact that there is the greatest unanimity as to what these conditions should be. Japan will, of course, demand the evacuation of Manchuria by Russia, and require that the territory in question be handed over to China in accordance with Treaty terms. The freedom of Korea, under Japanese suzerainty, would, no doubt, be conceded; but whether Japan would agree to the retention of Vladivostok by the Russians is another question. It is further suggested that the Chinese Eastern Railway should be transferred to the control of an International Commission, and that Port Arthur should be occupied by the Japanese. In some reports it is stated that Japan has laid it down as a condition precedent to settlement that Russia must agree to pay an indemnity of \$500,000,000. So that, if these rumours are well-founded, the sum total of Japan's gains is the acquisition of Port Arthur and an indemnity which may or may not be paid. Of course, there is the prestige which Japan has won by her victories on the battlefield—no negligible quantity—but that cannot be materially estimated. The question is, would Russian dignity permit of a settlement on such terms, especially when dictated by the scorned Japanese? The mediation of President Roosevelt may have great effect, supported as it would be by French opinion; and Russia would probably be only too glad to emerge from the difficulties in which she has been landed in the Far East, but there is always the stiff-necked Grand Ducal cabal to be considered. Probably the best assurance for a speedy settlement lies in the internal troubles which beset Russia. The point should not be overlooked, however, that in all these negotiations, the claims or pretensions of outsiders are not given a moment's consideration. Japan and Russia may call for mediators, but the terms of peace contain nothing to show that outside parties are concerned in the question, while China's territory is parcelled out among the parties as if it were a sort of Tom Tiddler's ground. It cannot be long, however, before an official statement on the subject must be issued by one or either of the parties and then we shall see what we shall see.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

(31st March.)

Many in Hongkong will regret the demise of the Hongkong Rifle Association. It was the only Association whose membership was open to all and sundry. There are still three rifle clubs in existence in Hongkong, but to become a member of these one must be either an army man, a volunteer, or on the reserve, so that the plain individual, who has not the time or the inclination to don the uniform and complete a certain number of drills annually, is debarred from the pastime of rifle-shooting. This is the more astonishing in view of the impetus given to the formation of rifle clubs in Great Britain. It is recognised that a citizen may be an exemplary volunteer and at the same time an execrably bad shot; but it is not the volunteer, as a volunteer, that is required so much as a steady and reliable hand on the trigger. According to the chairman of the Hongkong Rifle Association, rifle shooting has been flagging and the purpose of the Association to bring riflemen together, organise meetings, and provide ranges, has been defeated in every respect. The greatest range at the command of the Association was 600 yards, and the firing point was the public thoroughfare. Leaving out of consideration the inconvenience which must have been caused by the latter fact, it must be evident to the least skilful with the rifle that a maximum range of 600 yards is absurd. In actual warfare it is seldom that pot shots are exchanged at 600 yards, and when it is considered that a bullet from a modern Lee-Enfield or Mauser is effective at 1,500 to 2,000 yards, the practical uselessness of the Hongkong range is apparent. In this connection it may be remarked that Major-General Russell, formerly military attaché to the British Embassy at Berlin, advocated the construction of sea-targets for volunteers, holding that it would be impossible to provide land ranges for all the clubs in existence or in course of formation. The Hongkong Association, however, had to be content with a range which was only suited for Morris-tube purposes, and it is little to be wondered at if the members grew apathetic considering the restrictions under which they practised. At the same time a number of tried "shots" are likely to be left out in the cold and the Colony will lose the services of those who might be best qualified to serve in times of emergency. It is not at all satisfactory to read that there is "not a brilliant shot in the three rifle associations of the Colony."

ABANDONED.

Only a few months ago London was ringing with the story of a mysterious disappearance, a young lady doctor having vanished from the face of mankind as completely as if she had been whisked into the clouds. That case produced a multitude of others, all tending to prove that the metropolis was one of the chief "disappearing centres" in

the world. But the story unfolded by the police authorities of Hongkong two days ago indicates that there are possibilities here for the commission of crime and the disposal of the evidence such as probably few had imagined. In this case an ailing Chinaman was carried away into the hills and his body left to decompose in a "lonely spot off Lyttelton Road, West Point." It is not suggested that the coolies were guilty of homicide; it is alleged that on finding they were burdened with an ailing compatriot, who seemed to be without friends, they became frightened that they would find themselves in trouble and accordingly they disposed of the Chinaman in what seemed to them, no doubt, a most diplomatic manner. We have nothing to do with this individual case, beyond taking it as an illustration of the ease with which crimes could be committed in Hongkong, and all evidence lost. It does not add to the comfort of those who live in the outlying sections of the city to think of the numerous opportunities which the miscreant finds ready to his hand should he be on evil bent. There was the case not long ago when a European was attacked by a band of the hoodlums and half-blinded. He managed to beat off his assailants, but what would have happened had he been overpowered? Considering the size of Hongkong there are probably few places which hold so many "lonely spots" where even the adage that "evil will out" is likely to prove erroneous. It is difficult to suggest how the police could adequately cope with such possibilities, and so far we are unaware that there have been previous cases in any degree resembling that reported the other day. But the fact that the "dumping" method should have occurred to the Chinese mind is significant of that Oriental alertness which never sleeps, but hides itself under a mask of inertia. The effect of the story, however, should be to increase the activity of the native police in the suburbs and to lead the authorities to give greater attention to the proper lighting of the districts within the city boundary.

THE PO LEUNG KUK.

(1st April.)

None who have lived in the East for any length of time can doubt the immense value of the work which is being done, under the auspices of the Po Leung Kuk, in reclaiming women and saving children from lives of degradation and shame. In every British colony in this part of the world, the bulk of the population consists of Chinese, and naturally in the footsteps of the immigrants from the mainland come troops of women who have been trained to pandy to the vices not only of their countrymen but also of foreigners. The work of private societies, however praiseworthy, would not be sufficient to check the evils of the system, but in the Po Leung Kuk the Government has a department thoroughly equipped with powers to deal with the question. One remark which appears in the annual report of the Po Leung Kuk is worth attention. It is concerned with the prevalent opinion that Chinese girls are far more fitted to look after their own interests than European girls, but that is a fallacy in the opinion of the Po Leung Kuk. "Physically a Cantonese girl may become adult sooner than an English girl, but it cannot be denied that from the nature of her upbringing a Cantonese girl of 17 to 20 requires just as much protection as an English girl of the same age." Fortunately, the Po Leung Kuk can, within certain limits, afford that protection, and that it does so is evident from the number of girls who annually pass through the institution. The greatest difficulty which faces the Department is the moral influence exercised over the girls by their keepers. They do not consider themselves free agents, and having been well primed on the subject of what they shall say in the event of examination by the Po Leung Kuk authorities, they endeavour by every means in their power to throw dust in the eyes of the investigating Committee. Last year 676 persons were admitted to the Po Leung Kuk—a reduction of 150 as compared with the previous year; and that decrease is considered satisfactory, because there is no reason to believe that the vigilance of the police or the officers of the Department has been in any way relaxed. There were 434 detained under warrant, each of whom had to be patiently examined and cross-examined until the truth had been fully elicited. Twenty-five runaway maid servants were admitted, and it is noteworthy that the Department believes that this class is fully aware of the protection which the Government extends to them—a fact which argues much for the intelligence of these hard-worked girls. The great aim of the Po Leung Kuk is, of course, to defeat the ends of the disorderly-house keeper. The law, however, is so framed that the utmost difficulty is experienced in obtaining a sufficiency of proof to warrant a prosecution. As the report says: "Intimidation and forcible detention are also very difficult of proof, but no amendment of the law can render the proof easier." With the help of the Chinese gentlemen and business men of Hongkong, who have interested themselves in the operations of the Po Leung Kuk, it is hoped to secure greater protection for the unfortunates who cannot or will not help themselves, and it only remains to congratulate the Po Leung Kuk authorities on the success which has attended their beneficent labours up to the present time.

JACK ASHORE.

The problem of providing Jack ashore with an institute, where he may be clear of the temptations which are peculiarly attractive to the sailor, and weaned from the allurements of the gin-palace, has afforded much thought for the well-intentioned philanthropist but with little result. At every great seaport there are so-called homes and institutions primarily intended for Jack's use, but they are all designed on lines laid down by the "unco quid." They are trammelled with conventional ideas; usually there is an air of religion about the institutes which, while it may not be actually

repugnant to the average sailor, fetters the freedom of his ways. When Jack comes ashore, he is generally on the look-out for a "good time" which means a superfluity of singing and, it is to be feared, an excess of liquor. But it is not the liquor that is the original cause of his merriment. What he desires is good company; he has endured the strict discipline of shipboard so long that he must have a spell of what he erroneously, no doubt, calls liberty. He will not retire until the witching hour of midnight has come and passed. In Hongkong there are one or two places where the sailors may foregather with their chums, but as a rule he is not reconciled to the conditions imposed on his presence there. It is all too subdued, too suggestive of rules and regulations, to suit his volatile temperament. He feels that he is being converted into a highly-respectable citizen against his wish. He is expected to go to bed at an hour when his shipmates are just beginning to exercise their lungs in the city, and he becomes supremely uncomfortable in this environment of peace and rectitude. The Rev. J. H. France, who is beyond doubt the greatest of the sailor's friends in Hongkong, has decided to open an institute on the Praya East where the sailor may be induced to meet his companions and enjoy himself in an orderly way. The idea is highly commendable if it is carried out on the right lines. There should be a lack of conventionality about the place; Jack should be made to feel that he can do what he pleases—and Jack is by no means an obstreperous individual if dealt with in the proper spirit. Everything that savours of the goody-goody should be tabooed. If it is desired to teach Jack the beauties of the higher life there are plenty of ways other than that of forcing theological dogmas down his throat. The Rev. Mr. France is one of the few in Hongkong capable of understanding the idiosyncracies of Jack ashore, and everybody will wish him success in the venture which he has undertaken.

TELEGRAM.

THE WAR.

RUSSIAN NON-COMBATANTS

RELEASED BY THE JAPANESE.

Mr. M. Noma, Consul for Japan, kindly forwards us the following telegram:—

Tokio, March 27th, 1.45 p.m.
Of the Russian non-combatants fallen into our hands in the battle of Mukden, the following were released:—The released in front of our advanced guard were 47 men ranking as officers, 359 ranking as non-commissioned officers, 9 nurses, 2 priests and 4 merchants attached to the army. The released at their desire in Cheloo or Shanghai were 23 men ranking as officers, 23 nurses and 298 ranking as non-commissioned officers.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

THE LAST MEETING.

A meeting of the Hongkong Rifle Association was held at the Volunteer Headquarters last night for the purpose of considering whether the Association should be wound up or amalgamated with another Association. There was a very small attendance of members and as a matter of fact the meeting did not begin till long after the advertised hour. It was necessary to have a quorum of ten, and only nine had turned up at 5.10 p.m.; beaters were sent out and in a few minutes a member who was promptly escorted to the meeting. Major Chapman presided.
In opening the proceedings, Major Chapman remarked that the officers of the Association had now reached such a stage that it was necessary to consider what should be done. The range would be done away with in a very short time, and it was pointed out that the range was on the road, which was a most inconvenient condition of things. The interest in shooting had flagged considerably, so far as the Rifle Association was concerned. The Volunteer Reserve Association had been the means of "bucking up" rifle shooting, although they did not seem to have at present any very brilliant shots among them. It had been suggested that the Rifle Association might amalgamate with the Reserve or the Hongkong Volunteer Rifle Association, but he did not think that would be possible, he would use several of their members would not be eligible for membership in the other Association. It was for them to decide whether they should wind up the Association or make arrangements to carry it on; personally he was in favour of winding-up the Association.
The accounts and report for the year were adopted.
Lieut. M. S. Northcote, hon. secretary, stated that there was a balance of \$364 odd at the credit of the Association at the end of the year, but several payments had since been made which had reduced that balance.
A member asked:—Will the winding-up affect interpart matches between Hongkong, Shanghai and Singapore?
The Chairman replied that members of the interpart match team were not necessarily members of the Rifle Association. Anybody might be selected as a member of the team.
Lieut. Northcote said it would rest with the Volunteer Reserve Association to take up such matters. As far as he knew there were in the Colony at present three rifle clubs, possibly four—the Army Association, the Volunteer Reserve Association, the Volunteer Rifle Club and there might be a navy rifle club.
It was thereafter unanimously agreed to wind up the Association.
With regard to the balance it was agreed that a trophy should be purchased and handed over to the Volunteer Rifle Club.
Lieut. Northcote was appointed to wind up the Association.
A vote of thanks was accorded Lieut. Northcote for his labours as secretary, and the proceedings ended.
The Admiralty having transferred their range early in the year from Kowloon to Stonecutters, the old arrangement which had worked well for some years had to be given up. Owing to this change and to the uncertainty of range accommodation in what is now known as the King's Park, the usual Easter Prize Meeting was not held.
Up to the present no further steps have been taken in the matter of amalgamation with the Army Rifle Association suggested by Major General Sir Wm. Gascoigne at the time when the King's Park was first mooted, and it became evident that our present range would

eventually have to be abandoned, and which was agreed to at our general meeting of 20th Feb., 1903, nor does it seem probable that such amalgamation will now take place.
Although our range is at present available and is used by ourselves in conjunction with the recently-formed Hongkong Volunteer Rifle Association, the longer ranges have now disappeared, and the 600 yards firing point is situated in the road rendering the old championship and long range competitions no longer possible.

Except for a few weeks prior to the Interpart Match little interest was taken by members in rifle shooting throughout the year, the average attendance at spoon competitions being not more than eight.

The formation of the above referred to Association has deprived us of many possible members who might have done much to stimulate this Association and revive its flagging interest in the sport of rifle shooting, and in view of the establishment of this rival Association and of the proposal to form a Volunteer Rifle Club which will absorb most, if not all, of our active members, the question arises, whether the time has not now come when this Association must cease to exist.

Hongkong tied with Singapore for the Interpart Match with a total of 910, but unfortunately 10 on the tie, our total at the longest range being 299 against their 291. Shanghai scored 908 and Penang did not finish.

MOWBRAY S. NORTHCOTE,
Honorary Secretary.

NEW TERRITORY LAND APPEAL.

JUDGMENT DELIVERED.

The claim of Tang Tsz U. to land in the New Territories, known as "C.A.," in survey district No. 4, has been before the Courts of the Colony on many occasions during the past few years. The matter was opened at the Land Court, and continued to occupy attention until the 18th February last when judgment was given and the months later Tang Tsz U. instituted an appeal. There have been many adjournments since then and at the Supreme Court this morning the final stage of the case was arrived at when the Chief Justice (Sir Henry S. Berkeley) and the Puisne Judge (Mr. T. Sercombe Smith) delivered judgment.
Mr. H. G. Calhoun (instructed by Messrs. Ewens and Harston), appeared for the appellant, one Tang Tsz U., and the Hon. Attorney General, Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by the Crown Solicitor, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, the respondent, appeared in conjunction with Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., for the Crown to oppose the motion.

The judgments of the Chief Justice and the Puisne Judge were exceedingly lengthy, and occupied the attention of the Court for several hours. Particulars of the case form ancient history so that it is unnecessary to give any very detailed report of the finding of their Lordships.

The Chief Justice, who, in giving judgment, prefaced his observations by stating that as the case was of some importance they had placed their remarks in writing, said that it was an appeal from the decision of the Land Court dealing with a claim to the absolute ownership of a portion of the foreshore at Chungsha, formerly within the territories of the Emperor of China. Since the date of the Kowloon Extension Agreement the land had formed part of the Colony of Hongkong and officially known as the New Territories. The foreshore claimed extends for a length of about two miles along, what is known as part of the northern shore of Hongkong harbour and comprises an area of 150 acres.

Little or no value before the Kowloon Extension Agreement, since its inclusion in Hongkong Harbour the land has become of very great value. In the claims presented to the Land Court in 1901, the value was placed at \$50,000, but in the course of the arguments during the hearing of the appeal it was pointed out that the value now exceeds two million dollars. His Lordship proceeded to point out that the New Territories Land Court Ordinance did not make it compulsory on the Governor to grant titles in the case of every claim brought before the Land Court in which titles were wanted. It was obvious because cases might arise in which it might not be in the public interest that land should be made over to claimants even though their claims had been established. To meet such cases in equity the Governor while expressly empowered to refuse titles is required to refer claims back to the Land Court to decide about the payment of compensation in lieu of a title being given to claimants. In the present case the effect of the Ordinance read together must be that the appellant, if he had established his claim to the absolute ownership of the foreshore, shown himself to be entitled to any interest in respect thereof, must receive from the Governor a grant to the title of the estate or, in the alternative, some compensation. It was unnecessary to refer to the grounds on which the president of the Land Court based his consideration of the question as to whether the appellant had made out his claim or not; the question was whether he had made out his claim to a title to the land or compensation in lieu of possession thereof. The claim was based on two documents which were no more or no less than a reclamation permit containing a proviso that the holder would be entitled to convert the document into a title to the possessory right thereto if within a given time the land was reclaimed. That the appellant failed to do, and on his behalf it was contended that the law of China must be incorrectly stated by the expert inasmuch as the appellant was both before and after the lapse of six years from the issuing of the permit recognised by the district magistrate as the owner of the land, although, as a matter of fact, he had done nothing in the way of reclamation. The respondent maintained that the privilege of reclaiming, granted to the appellant under the permits not having been exercised within the statutory limitation of six years, had according to the law of China lapsed, and at the date of the Convention of 1898 did not exist and could not be used to found the claim to a grant of title from the British Government. Appellant could possess no right against the British Government that he did not possess against the Chinese Government. His Lordship proceeded to review the evidence respecting the position of the appellant towards the Chinese Government in 1898, and pointed out that in that respect he failed to maintain the position which he took up and therefore the claim against the Crown must fail. The appeal would be dismissed.

The Puisne Judge delivered a very lengthy judgment, in the course of which he remarked that the appellant's argument on the point of not having fulfilled the conditions under which he was permitted to reclaim was that the Chinese Government had no right to enter the lands comprised in his documents of claim, that such a right of re-entry was not expressed on the face of these documents, and was too severe measure to be employed in law for the law against forfeiture. He further stated that the Chinese Government was never directed of the ownership of the land, but simply permitted the appellant to enter on the soil for the purpose of reclaiming it within a

prescribed time. That time expired, and the conditions on expiration remained unfulfilled. The permission to occupy came to an end therefore when the allowed term had passed and the conditions imposed by the permission were unfulfilled. The appeal would be dismissed with costs.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH.

A very curious case is now occupying the attention of our local detectives, which has several curious points of interest, and the facts of which certainly point a very serious moral.
On the 22nd inst., one Li Hin Cheung, accountant at the shop, the "Sheng Cheung Tin," 31, Hing Lung Street, reported to the police that on the 21st inst. he had sent one Pan Kat Shung, a commission agent and general dealer, to his house in Salt Fish Lane, and that he returned at once in the same chair, appearing to be ill and unconscious; he had then sent him to hospital, since when he had not been seen or heard of, and his whereabouts were entirely unknown. The matter was at once placed in the hands of the Chief Inspector of Detectives, Mr. J. Hanson, and from investigation made the following facts were gathered:—On the 18th inst., Pan, who had just arrived from Canton, called upon Li Hin Cheung, the accountant, who was an old friend of his, and borrowed \$400, on security which was to be handed over later. On the 20th inst., Pan went back and called upon Li, at 10.30 Hing Lung Street, and there gave him two deposit receipts for \$5,000 (aggregate) issued by the Wo Wai Bank, which had suspended payment at the end of last year, but on which considerable dividends are expected to be forthcoming in due course, with the understanding that Li would collect all that was due on the receipts, and after deducting the \$400 advanced, pay the balance to Pan. It appeared that Pan was not feeling very well that day, and at about 4.30 p.m. told the shop owner to call a chair to take him back to his lodgings in Salt Fish Lane, West Point. The chair was called, and here it has not clearly been discovered whether Pan got into the chair himself or was helped into it. At any rate the coolies started off with him, but on arriving at the address given in Salt Fish Lane, the Chinaman in charge refused to admit the man saying he did not belong to the place, and told the chair-coolies to take the fare back to the place whence they had come. They accordingly returned to 30, Hing Lung Street, and there reported the affair to Li, who came out and finding Pan apparently unconscious, told the coolies to take him to the Tung Wah Hospital. The coolies demanded \$15 for this job, and it was finally agreed that \$10 should be paid in advance; the money was handed over to them. Li accompanied the chair and its burden, but stopping for a moment at the Western Market, he lost sight of it, and so went on and waited until 7 p.m. at the Tung Wah Hospital; but neither Pan nor his chair-coolies appeared.

The next day Li went back to the hospital and made further inquiries regarding the possible arrival of Pan, but was again informed that he had not been brought to the hospital. Li then started out to look for the chair-coolies, having taken the number of the chair the previous day. He found the chair, No. 428, and recognized the coolies, but they denied all knowledge of Li or of his \$10 fare. The coolies were accordingly arrested and taken to the Central Station, but denied any connection with the affair. Meanwhile the police and the detectives were kept busy, for the usual (though not generally known) reports of the finding of dead bodies floating in the harbour came in daily, and in the absence of any news of Pan's whereabouts, his friends had to view these bodies with the hope of thus identifying the missing man. The chair-coolies were taken by Li and others belonging to the shop at No. 30, Hing Lung Street, who recognized them, and still they continued to deny all knowledge of the affair, until yesterday morning one of the chair-coolies, upon being asked point blank, by Chief Inspector of Detectives Hanson, what he had done with Pan, he replied, "Come, I will show you." Mr. Hanson and detective O'Sullivan then went with the man, who took them away up the hillside until they came to a lonely spot off Lyttelton Road, West Point, and there they found the dead and highly decomposed body of a Chinaman, whom Li and the police identified as that of Pan.

The coolies then stated what they knew of the facts above related, and said that, finding they had lost the \$10 from No. 30 near the Western Market, they became frightened, as they thought if they were found carrying a disease-infected body, and with so much money on them they would get into trouble, and so dumped the body where they pointed it out to Mr. Hanson. The body was in an advanced state of decomposition, but all the deceased's personal belongings were found intact. There were \$26.13 in his purse, a pair of spectacles in a case, a handkerchief, keys, note-book and letters with the usual coral cap button.
The body was removed to the mortuary for the purposes of a post mortem examination. The police stated to the police that deceased had suffered with swollen legs for two years or more, to their knowledge. Interrogated by the detectives, the coolies said that the man was dead before they reached Salt Fish Lane, and they carried his dead body all the way back to Hing Lung Street, and that was why they demanded \$10 to carry it any further. The coolies are under arrest.

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COLLISION IN THE HARBOUR.

FEARED LOSS OF LIFE.

A collision occurred in the harbour last night, which may result in the master of a steam-launch being seriously injured. It appears from the reports made that at about 8 p.m. yesterday, the "Li Tung," a Chinese-owned steam-launch, left the Central Market Wharf to proceed to the B. I. s.s. "Purmer," which was anchored in the northern fairway. All went well until they had proceeded about three miles of the distance, when the launch ran full into a coolie passenger junk which was coming up at the time with 32 passengers on board. The launch struck the junk end on and knocked a big hole in her starboard side, the launch itself not sustaining any injury of any importance. The junk filled and became water-logged, and the passengers were thrown into the sea by the sudden list the junk took, at the moment of the collision, to port. The junk settled down, and the passengers were picked up by the launch and passing sampans, and from the sampans were subsequently mustered on the launch, when it was discovered that three of their number were missing, and it is supposed they were drowned. The master of the launch Li Tung, on the matter being reported to the police, was arrested, and he stated that there were no lights on the junk, and being a dark night he could not see anything in front of him. On the other hand the master of the junk and the rescued passengers declare that all regulation lights were burning brightly. Ching, the master of the launch, is held in custody, pending inquiries and a search for the missing passengers, no bodies having been so far recovered.

THE STRANDED "SULLY."

SKECHES OF THE VESSEL.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE SALVAGE PARTY.

We publish to-day sketches showing the position of the stranded French cruiser *Sully* as she lies on an uncharted reef in Along Bay. The sketches were made after the divers had been at work on the vessel and they afford a very clear impression of the difficulties which have to be faced by the salvage party in refloating the cruiser. The sketches were taken for the *Courier Saigonais*.

The first sketch shows the *Sully* end on, and gives some idea of the list.

The second is a profile sketch, showing by an angle the part of the rock on which the vessel is stranded.

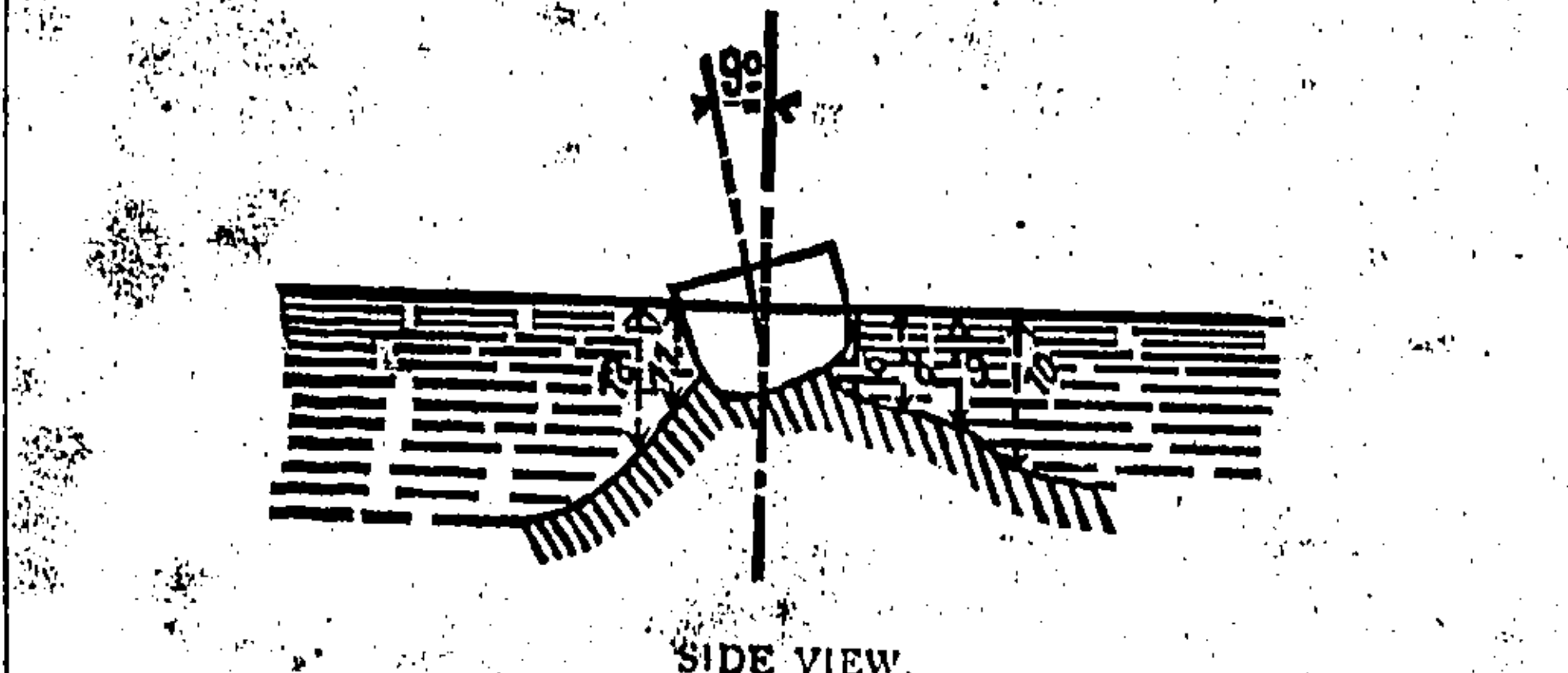
The third gives the position of the ship with regard to the rocky islet of Le Canon. Two circular and concentric lines indicate the exact place where the rocks have penetrated the vessel's hull.

The figures given in the second and third sketches are those of the depth of water as obtained from soundings.

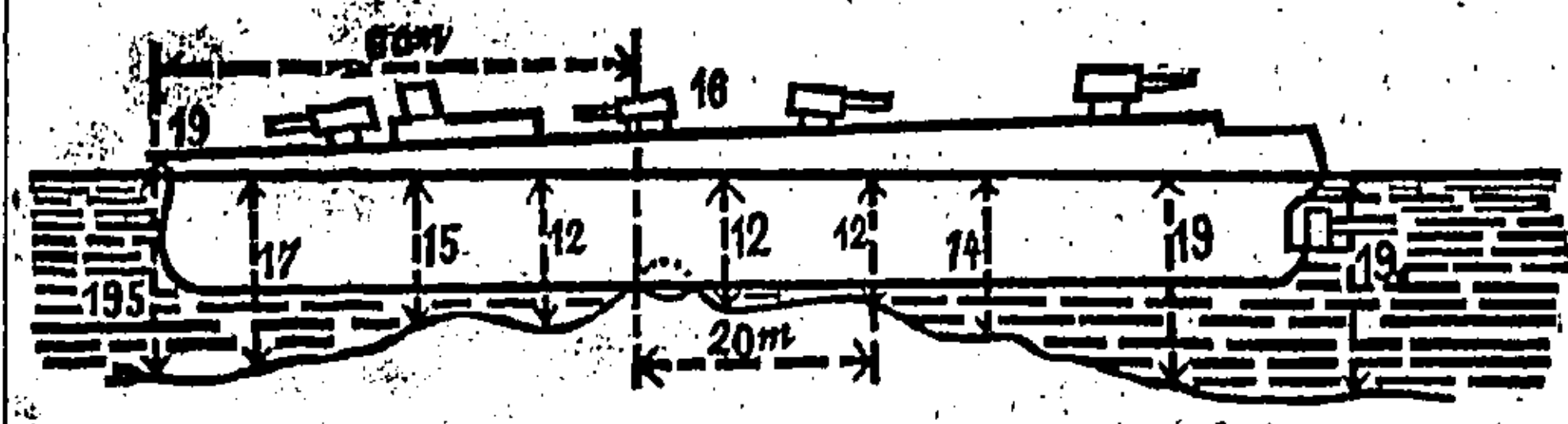
The *Courier Saigonais* adds that their Haiphong correspondent writes stating that the sea is rising and rough weather is expected, which will make the salvage operations increasingly difficult. It is becoming more and more uncertain whether the cruiser can be refloated.

THE POSITION OF THE SULLY AS SEEN BY THE DIVERS.

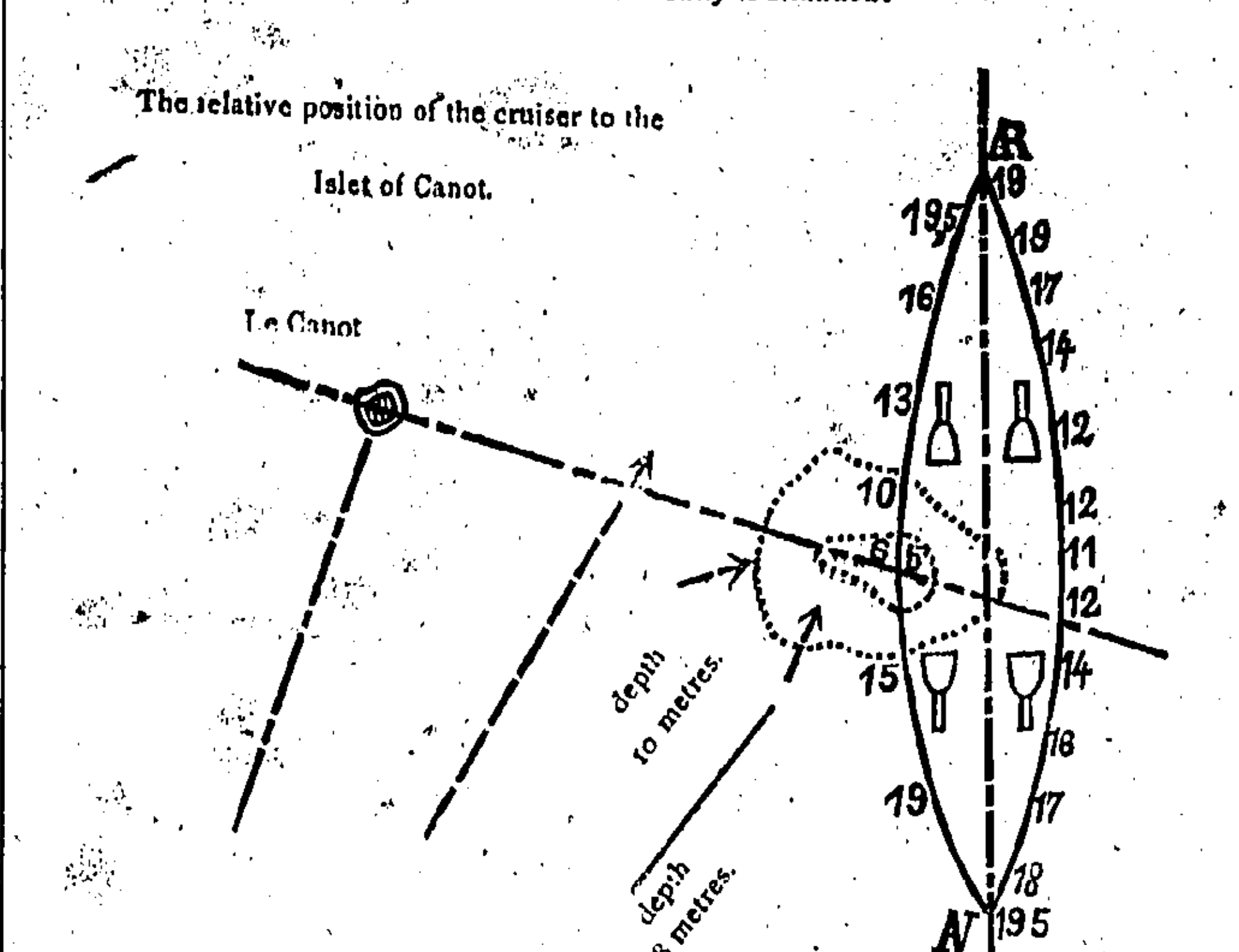
TRANSVERSE PROFILE.



SIDE VIEW.



The rock on which the *Sully* is stranded.



MR. JAMESON IN HONGKONG.

28th ult.
Considerable interest has been centered round the salvage operations now proceeding on board the French cruiser *Sully*, stranded on an uncharted rock to the south of Along Bay, on the coast of Tonkin, Indo-China. It will be remembered by our readers that about a month ago an expedition of salvage experts, under Mr. James Watt Jameson, salvage engineer, were given the contract by the Hongkong Salvage Syndicate to endeavour to save the stranded *Sully*. They left for the scene of the wreck, with all supplies in the way of salvage pumps, auxiliary boilers, etc., in the s.s. *Harriet*, specially chartered for the purpose. After viewing the stranded vessel, Jameson, after consulting the reports of her position, that, given fine weather and smooth sea, there was every probability of saving her, and placing her safely in the dock at Kowloon for repairs, within a reasonable time.

All went well at first, and no time was lost after the arrival of the party at the scene of their operations. The pumps were soon got to work and as all that could be moved out of the stranded vessel, in the shape of guns and gear, to lighten her, had been already done by the French Naval authorities, there appeared to be but little doubt that, once pumped dry, the hole patched up, and a powerful tug pulling at her, she would be got off her perch into safe waters without much delay after the commencement of the pumping operations. All appeared to go well, but additional gear was necessary and was requisitioned and despatched from Hongkong. Despite every effort made the water in the forward part of the cruiser did not abate for it simply flowed in again as fast as it was pumped out, and for every foot of water got out of her, another foot took its place. The leak, it is said, was in such a position in the overhanging forward part of the vessel that with the water deep on the outside, and several feet inside, it could not be got at to be patched up. However, the operations had one beneficial effect that they kept the vessel at a uniform weight, and so obviated in great measure the risk of her breaking up by grinding heavily on the rock on which she is so unfortunately perched. As it appeared hopeless to continue the operations without the aid of extra gear in the shape of more pumps, etc., Mr. Jameson considered the advisability, or otherwise of renewing his contract which was about to expire. It is to be regretted that he finally decided not to renew it, as he had in the meanwhile had a severe fall, in consequence of which he sustained the fracture of three of his ribs on the right side. This regrettable accident, of course, incapacitated him from further active superintendence of the operations going on, so that after the doctor of the *Montcalm* had attended to his injuries, and bandaged up his side he left the scene of his labours on Sunday morning, after having handed over the control of the operations, and given the use of his salvage plant to the French Admiral, and returned to Hongkong this morning, in the s.s. *Manoir*.

Mr. Jameson cannot express himself positively as to the probabilities of saving the vessel.

and does not at present contemplate a return to the scene of the salvage operations.

MR. W. C. JACK TO THE RESCUE.

In the meantime Mr. Jack, of Messrs. E. C. Wilks and Co., who met with such conspicuous success in refloating the s.s. *Shanghaï*, left last evening, in the s.s. *Hongkong* for Haiphong, whence he will proceed to the scene of the *Sully*'s mishap, and after reviewing the situation will report on the position and condition of the vessel, and on what possibilities there are of ultimately saving her. We understand that in the event of it being found in any way possible to float the cruiser, it is the intention of Mr. Jack to undertake the work of salvage, and to commence his operations under an entirely new, and, it is hoped, an almost infallible system so far as systems can be so in dealing, or in any way having to reckon with, the elements. We learn that great faith is placed in the system and it is much to be hoped that complete success will attend this second attempt to restore the splendid vessel to her proper elements.

27th ult.

Latest advices from Haiphong show that the French cruiser *Sully*, which went on a reef in the vicinity of the Indo-China coast some time ago, still remains in her precarious position. The work of lightening the vessel, by the removal of the heavier guns, ammunition, etc., has been carried through, and it is expected that in the early part of next week the vessel will be ready for a plunge into her native element. The steamer *Hongkong*, which leaves to-day for Haiphong, had on board two special pumps for clearing the holds of water. It is stated that while there are no leaks of any importance, the plates of the vessel have been subjected to such a heavy strain during the time she has been on the rocks that the interstices admit water, but if the cruiser could only be pulled off no difficulty would be experienced in bringing her to dock. Fortunately the weather remains calm and no immediate danger is feared. Recently it was reported that the final operations for saving the vessel would be completed on the 2nd of April, and accounts to hand seem to indicate that the work will be accomplished about that date.

SALVAGE OPERATIONS PROCEEDING.

30th ult.

According to *Le Courier Saigonais* of the 17th inst., the refloating of the cruiser *Sully*, which is stranded in Along Bay, is likely to prove more difficult than was at first anticipated. The Company which was in charge of the operations for refloating the vessel were, however, confident that the work would proceed rapidly, and stated that there was nothing to fear.

On the other hand, serious alarm has been felt for several days regarding the result of the work on account of the heavy seas.

There is an increasing volume of water entering the vessel at each tide, which has a damaging effect on the vessel.

The *Montcalm* has left Saigon for Along Bay, with the object of saving whatever is possible from the *Sully*. The material will be taken to the arsenal at Saigon.

CAMPBELL, MOORE & CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The nineteenth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in Campbell, Moore & Co., Ltd., was held at the Company's office at noon today, when there were present Messrs. J. W. Osborne (Chairman), Capt. Clark, A. O. D. Gourdin, Danny Chee, V. P. Musso, F. A. L. A. A. Souza (Secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the Chairman said:—Gentlemen, the statement of accounts has been in your hands some days, and with your permission I will follow the usual course and take it as read. Nothing can be stated that would give any more information than is contained in the accounts. I understand that the business here and at the branch establishment is prosperous, and I look forward to another successful year, and hope that next year we shall give as good a return as we have now, or better. I propose the adoption of the report and accounts. If any shareholder would like to ask any questions which I can answer I shall be pleased to do so.

There being no questions, the Chairman proposed, Mr. A. O. D. Gourdin seconded, and it was agreed, that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

Capt. Clark proposed and Mr. Dang Chee seconded, the re-election of Mr. A. O. D. Gourdin as auditor.

Carried.

The Chairman said that Mr. Gourdin had been their auditor since the establishment of the Company and had been of very great assistance.

The report of the board of directors to the nineteenth ordinary meeting of shareholders was as follows:—

Gentlemen.—The directors have the pleasure to lay before you the accounts for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1904, showing a credit balance of \$1,171.74, which, with your approval, your directors propose to deal with as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 30%	\$3,600.00
To pay directors' fees	600.00
To write off fixture and furniture accounts	289.15
To place to reserve fund account	2,500.00
To carry forward to next year's account	1,182.59

\$8,171.74

Your directors are glad to be in a position to state that the business of the company has been steady during the past few months and there is every probability of showing as good results for the present year.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. A. O. D. Gourdin, who offers himself for re-election.

J. W. OSBORNE, Chairman.

Hongkong, 25th March, 1905.

ASSETS.

To Stock—	
Value of stock on hand	\$14,046.79
Accounts receivable—	
Due from customers	5,359.44
Cash—	
Amount on hand	379.01
Chartered Bank—	
In current account	3,376.70
Fixed deposit—	
With Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	3,500.00
Fixtures and Furniture—	
As per last account	\$626.58
Written off as per resolution passed 31st Mar., 1904	126.58
Less sale of electric fans	500.00
175.00	
Since added	375.00
664.15	
Insurance account—	
Unexpired prem. paid in advance	14.67
	\$27,465.76

LIABILITIES.

By Capital—	
1,000 shares paid up @ \$10 each	\$10,000.00
Accounts payable—	
Due to sundry creditors	1,667.72
Reserve fund—	
As per last account	\$3,500.00
Added as per resolution passed 31st Mar., 1904	2,000.00
	5,500.00
Unclaimed Dividends and Bonus	126.30
Balance at credit of profit and loss	8,171.74
	\$27,465.76

WORKING ACCOUNT.

To charges	\$ 2,744.84
Wages	10,975.66
Reserve fund—	
As passed at meeting 31st March, 1904	2,000.00
Dividend—	
30% passed at meeting 31st March, 1904	3,600.00
Directors' fees	600.00
Furniture and fixtures	126.58
Auditors' fees	300.00
Rent	3,120.00
Insurance	54.25
Stationery	226.80
Bad debts—1900	29.00
1901	247.30
1902	247.90
1903	243.70
	847.90
Balance	8,171.74
	\$31,867.77

By balance brought forward from last account	\$ 6,933.51
Interest	176.70
Sales and shop returns	\$33,597.76
Less cost of stock	8,740.95
	24,766.81
Transfer fees	75
	\$31,867.77

RESERVE FUND.

To Balance 31st December, 1904	\$ 5,500.00
By Balance 31st December, 1903	\$ 3,500.00
Added as per resolution passed 31st March, 1904	2,000.00
	\$ 5,500.00

E. & O. E.

CAMPBELL, MOORE & CO., LTD.

I have compared the above statement with the books and vouchers of the company and certify the same to be correct.

A. O. D. GOURDIN,

Auditor.

OWING to the recrudescence of piracy around Kwangchow the Minister for France at Peking has approached the Chinese government with a view to its suppression, and the Viceroy of Canton has been instructed to take energetic measures against these people.

WATKINS, LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of Watkins, Limited, was held in the Company's office, Queen's Road Central, today. Mr. G. A. Watkins presided, and among those present were Messrs. Chow Hon Wah, Wong Leung Him, Chan A. Fook, Tsang Yui Kai, Mr. Chan A. Fook read the notice calling the meeting.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, with your permission I propose to take the general managers' report for last year as read, and proceed at once to make the few remarks I have in my mind. From the statements now before you, you will see that substantial amounts have been written off the two assets "Aerated Water Plant" and "Shop Fittings and Furniture," and that these appropriations meet your concurrence. The next item amongst the assets calling for notice is the building, which appears as only \$15,040 against last year's figure of \$23,723; the difference is accounted for by the reduction of the monthly instalments paid off during the year under review. The instalments, I may add, were treated as rent and debited to the working account of 1904 out of the profits of the year. One more item, and we will finish with this side of the account, and that is the balance of \$15,000 due from Messrs. J. C. Logan & Co. for the purchase of our launch, which was sold to them last December. It has since been paid in full. Now for the liabilities. The bills, loans and accounts payable all showed a decrease as compared with last year amounting together to over \$15,000. But, unfortunately, the Bank overdraft amounted to nearly \$10,000 more. And it is due entirely to this fact that your general managers find themselves compelled to carry forward last year's profits—\$12,634.82 instead of paying the usual 10% dividend. Profit and Loss account exhibits a credit balance of \$12,634.82 against \$11,042.22 of the previous year, an increase of \$1,592.60, a result which the general managers trust the shareholders regard as satisfactory. I don't think there is anything else in the accounts calling for any special attention, but I shall be pleased to give any further information which any of you gentlemen here may wish to ask. The receipts or sales, during last year show an increase. And this year, so far, may be considered as satisfactory.

No questions were asked.

The Chairman said—I beg to propose that the report and statement of accounts now before the meeting for the year 1904, as printed, be adopted and passed.

Mr. Chow Hon Wah seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.

The Chairman—That is all the business and I thank you for your attendance.

THE REPORT.

The following is the report of the general managers for last year:—

Gentlemen.—We beg to submit to you our report and a statement of the accounts of the Company for the year ended the 31st December, 1904.

Profit and Loss Account.—After providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and including the \$1,042.22 carried forward from last year, the balance at credit of this account amounts to \$16,804.82, from which has to be deducted the following sums written off as depreciation, viz.:—From plant and machines, \$1,000.00; furniture and fixtures, \$1,000.00 equal \$2,000.00; leaving, available, the sum of \$14,804.82; which sum the general managers propose to carry forward to the current year's account.

Equalization of Dividend Fund.—The amount at credit of this fund remains as before, \$4,802.57.

Auditor.—The accounts have been audited by Mr. A. O. D. Gourdin.

The balance sheet on 31st December last showed assets amounting to \$188,738.34, the chief items of which were:—Stock on hand \$20,444.11, stock etc. with branches \$14,176.82, accounts receivable \$44,207.34, J. C. Logan and Co. balance due for purchase of steam launch \$2,000, building \$15,040, furniture \$15,444.92, aerated water plant \$5,000. Liabilities include—capital \$100,000, equalization of dividend fund \$4,802.57, Russo-Chinese Bank \$21,265.43, bills payable \$20,519.91, loans payable \$5,750, accounts payable (trade bills, sundry creditors) \$8,151, building mortgage loan \$15,040. The profit and loss account shows a loss on the steam launch sold of \$300. Last year with a balance of \$1,042.22 the company disbursed \$10,000 in a 10 per cent. dividend.

GEO. FENWICK & CO., LTD.

CONFIRMATORY MEETING.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of George Fenwick & Co., Ltd., was held in the Hongkong Hotel today, for the purpose of confirming a resolution making certain alterations in the articles of association of the Company, passed at a meeting on the 11th instant. Mr. A. Rodger, chairman of directors, presided, and the other directors were Messrs. W. Parlane, director, W. G. Winterburn, general manager, G. de Champeaux, Thos. Arnold, J. I. Andrew, W. H. Purcell, and J. McCordqudale. The chairman moved that the resolution passed at the previous meeting be confirmed. Mr. G. de Champeaux seconded and the motion was unanimously carried. The business of the meeting then ended.

WEST RIVER TRADE.

The Statistical Department of the Imperial Maritime Customs has issued the quarterly returns of trade for the last three months of the past year, and turning to the ports of the West River we find that, in most cases the revenue derived is now beginning to increase consequent, no doubt, upon the more settled state of affairs in the interior. The dues and duties collected at Kongmoo amounted to Tls. 31,215, while at Samsui the total revenue was Tls. 41,250 as against Tls. 37,528 in 1903 and Tls. 27,673 in the corresponding quarter of the year previous. At Wuchow the increase was still greater, the collection being Tls. 135,793 or more than double what it was two years ago when the figures were Tls. 57,423 which in the December quarter of 1903 had risen to Tls. 107,131. This enormous increase is brought about by larger collections both of import and export duties and as the figures relating to shipments to and from foreign ports are greatly in excess of those passing in and out of the ports show a falling off there seems not much doubt that our trade with Wuchow is being developed at a rapid rate.

The duties collected during the quarter are also satisfactory, and although in the absence of any comparative table it is impossible to show any increase there is not much doubt that during the past year a considerable volume of foreign trade has been done with the stages on this important waterway. The duties collected on goods at Komchuk was Tls. 5,420, at Shihing Tls. 3,243, at Tikhing Tls. 15,550, at Dong Tls. 285 or a total collection during the quarter of Tls. 24,903.

HONGKONG SATIRISED.

"INTERCEPTED LETTERS."

A sprightly little volume, full of quips and cranks directed against Hongkong "Society," is that now published under the title of "Intercepted Letters." The author prefers to be known as "Betty," which exhibits a modesty unusual among the literary tribe and particularly ungenerous in this case when the comments on the follies and foibles of Hongkong people are so pleasantly told. The letters are supposed to have been written by a newly-married lady to a friend at home. Faithful to tradition the writer drags in the name of a certain person called "William" who is what is commonly known as the other half of a common-sense. Whenever an expedition is planned "William" vetoes it; if a trip to Canton is suggested "William" is down on it like a cart-load of bricks. But it is "William" who gets all the pretty sayings, and it is "William" who is responsible for the funny stories. One of the features of Hongkong life which struck the author was the fact that it was not supposed to be "good form" to ramble about with your husband or your wife, as the case may be. And several good stories—albeit they seem reminiscent of some, thing similar we have heard before—are told in this connection. The trip to Canton must have been an exceptionally pleasant affair, but the average reader would doubtless like to know who that dear delightful Captain was who catered so admirably for the wants of his lady passengers that they had no time to see Canton because they were afraid they might lose the boat and the dear Captain's company. Great fun is poked at the Happy Valley Hussars and the guild of volunteer nurses. "On a peace footing they can only allow three nurses to each troop, but in time of war as they get killed off, they will be able to increase the allowance." That sentence alone ought to ensure the success of the H. V. Hussars, to say nothing of the rush for places in the nursing ranks. "Intercepted Letters" give some of the most entertaining side-lights on Hongkong Society that have ever appeared in the press. It aims at being satirical, but the good-humour and vivacity of the author extract the sting from whatever satire there may be in the narrative. It is exactly what it professes to be—chit-chat and mid criticism on the people of Hongkong. The last of these "Intercepted Letters" is dated 1900 and is supposed to be written by a grand-daughter of the present "Betty." By that time there is a statue in King's Park to Sir Matthew Nathan who had such a big share in making Hongkong what it is to-day, and who was afterwards such a signal success as Governor-General of the South African Commonwealth. In Berkeley Square "named after a famous jurist and wit" there is a statue of Sir Francis May; and before the People's Palace, "with which his munificence endowed the Colony stands the statue of Robert Shewan, the People's Tribune." Sir William Gresson, the first commander of the Happy Hussars, also has a statue in 1900; there is another to Sir Paul Chater, and a Murray Bain memorial. It is a pretty picture, and strange things have happened. "A Si will be well laid out on Intercepted Letters" is handsomely bound in the form of an envelope, and is printed and published by Messrs. Kelly and Walsh, Hongkong.

30th ult.

Another resort for naval men ashore is shortly to be established, and should be a great boon to those for whose benefit it is to be carried on. As stated in our columns last month, the Rev. J. H. France, the seamen's chaplain, has for some time past noticed the want of a really attractive recreational resort for naval men, and has been working hard, and devoting all his energies towards establishing such a place as he had in his mind. The result of his efforts is that he has now been enabled to rent two houses on the Praya, just to the east of No. 2, Police Station, in Wanchai, and these are now in the carpenters' and masons' hands to carry out the extensive alterations necessary to render them entirely fit for the purpose for which it is intended they shall be used. There will be billiard rooms, refreshment rooms, reading and writing rooms, sleeping accommodation for those whose shore leave permits their remaining ashore at night, and well equipped both for the sanitary and sanitary appliances. In fact, everything will be done to make this new resort a pleasant and attractive place for those who will be privileged to avail themselves of it.

A NEW NAVAL RESORT.

30th ult.

THE JEWS IN SINGAPORE.

Mr. N. E. B. Ezra contributes the following special article to *Israel's Messenger*, a Shanghai paper.

The object of this essay is to place before the readers of the *Israel's Messenger* a succinct account of the Jews residing in Singapore, which we hope will not prove uninteresting. The Jewish community numbers about 700 souls, comprising of Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews; the former being in the majority. The former are from Bagdad and India and the latter from Europe. It was in 1840 that the Jews first commenced to settle in Singapore. In the early forties they used to conduct their services in a special house at a short distance from the business quarter of the town; hence the street was called "Synagogue street" and is still known as such, although the Synagogue has long ago ceased to be there. About the year 1877 the community purchased a piece of land in Waterloo Street where they built a Synagogue which is now known as "Maghain Aboth." It was consecrated on the 4th April, 1878, and it is believed that this soon to be taken to re-build it on a grander scale. The following are the trustees of the Synagogue, viz.:—Messrs. M. Meyer, Raphael Sassoon, S. J. Nathan and E. A. Solomon. At present it is well supported by the community and during the Jewish Holidays it is very largely attended by both the Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews and at times there is hardly sufficient room to accommodate all. For reasons not necessary to mention here, Mr. Manasseh Meyer, one of the recognised heads of the community and a very orthodox Jew, has last year built at his own expense a Synagogue with cost about \$10,000. It is situated on a nice position (Oxley Rise) and is about a couple of minutes walk from his residence. It is a fine building and can accommodate about 400 persons and we understand that it will be consecrated during the ensuing Passover Holidays and is to be named "Chai-el."

PUBLIC SPIRIT.

Another praiseworthy and public spirited action of Mr. Meyer is worthy of note here, now that a short history of the development of the Jewish people of Singapore is being chronicled. Some two years ago Mr. Meyer, seeing that there is a dearth of Jewish writers on Jewish Law and recognising the need of having authoritative opinions on religious matters of everyday occurrences published, at once volunteered to defray the cost of publishing the second volume of "Rab Pealim" the work of Rabbi Joseph Hayem Moses of Bagdad, who is one of the recognised living authorities on matters of ritual. Needless to say this work is warmly appreciated and much liked by the Jewish students. Incidentally we may mention that there are some more MSS. by Rabbi Moses that still await publication. We hope that these will soon be placed before the Jewish public.

The Jewish burial ground has been purchased by the community since their settlement in Singapore, which is now almost filled up. In 1902 the community bought another piece of ground for burial purposes.

Several attempts were made to found a Talmud Torah Institute and, at last, through the help of some of the more energetic members of the community, a class was formed at which 50 pupils now attend daily. Free tuition is being supplied to them, the expense of which is borne by the community. About the year 1868 there existed a local branch of the Anglo-Jewish Association of which Mr. J. Abel was the secretary. Owing to want of interest and energetic workers the branch was discontinued, and although several strenuous efforts were recently made to revive it, they were not successful. It is a pity that in a community of such numbers there should be wanting men to organise and manage Societies of importance to the Hebrew race. It is not that they are ungenerous or callous to the fate of their less fortunate coreligionists, but it seems that they are not made sufficiently interested in the scheme, or most probably the right parties have not come to the front. An instance of their liberal and sympathetic attitude towards their helpless brethren in other lands is the collection recently made towards the funds of the Russian Jewish prisoners of war in Japan, an account of which appeared in the last issue of the *Israel's Messenger*.

DISUNION.

Generally speaking the Jews of Singapore (with few exceptions) cannot be said to be living in perfect peace and harmony with each other. That this state of affairs is deplorable goes without saying. Jews ought by this time to have learnt what disunion leads to. As long as we are not united we cannot expect a brighter era to dawn upon our race. Let us by all means fight for a good cause or for a principle, but let us forget mere personalities and jealousies which never lead to any good but, on the contrary, spells downfall. It is to be regretted that in an otherwise almost perfect and flourishing community such a state of affairs should exist and it is hoped that the causes, which are too delicate to be commented upon in a newspaper, but which are nevertheless too flimsy to exist, would soon disappear and that a life of Jewish usefulness and unity will succeed the present regime.

The Jews in Singapore are financially in a prosperous condition and are doing pretty well in almost every branch of trade. Among the merchants the firms of Meyer Brothers, S. Manasseh and Co., E. Meyer and Co., Shager Brothers, and others have lead. They deal principally in opium, rice and gunny bags. Brokers, shopkeepers, etc., constitute the rest of the Sephardic Jews, while the Ashkenazi section of the community, even though the law has its representative in Mr. Montagu Morris, barrister-at-law. During his brief stay in Singapore he closely identified himself with Jewish affairs and made himself considerably popular both among the Jews and Gentiles.

THE DUTIES OF LANDING AGENTS.

On the morning of the 10th ult., at the Yokohama Local Court, before Judge Yasuda, reports the *Japan Herald*, the hearing was resumed of the case between Mr. S. Weston and the Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas, adjudged from the 10th November, 1904, the amount involved being ¥1,036.59. The case arose out of a quantity of tobacco brought by the *Salra*, for which steamer Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co. are the agents. The defendants refused to recognise the validity of the claim on the ground that they were dealing through the agents only, and the plaintiff, the landing agent, had no *locus standi*. The plaintiff now controverted the above statement, saying that it is customary for a landing agent to have the goods entrusted to his care landed at a place fixed and through its recognised landing agent. An application to call an expert to decide what the usual custom is on this point was granted by the Court, and the further hearing of the case was adjourned until the 24th inst.

APPLICATIONS IN BANKRUPTCY.

ABSCONDING DEBTORS.

30th ult.

Out of four cases in bankruptcy jurisdiction at the Supreme Court this morning there was only one in which the debtor had not absconded, and Sir Henry S. Berkeley ordered that warrants be issued for the arrest of the defaulters. The first matter to be brought to the notice of the Chief Justice was an application by Mr. O. D. Thomson that the Wing Yee firm of old iron dealers, trading at 44, Wing On Street be adjudged bankrupt. The Official Receiver pointed out to the Court that the debtor had absconded, and a warrant was issued for the arrest of the parties, Mr. G. H. Wakeman intimating that it had not been ascertained who were the people connected with the business.

INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION.

In the case of Ho Sam, lately trading as Hop Yik Chai at the Hop Yik godowns, Des Vaux Road West, ex parte the International Banking Corporation, there was the same order made, the Official Receiver informing his Lordship that debtor had also absconded. A warrant for the man's apprehension was ordered to be taken out.

RICE DEALERS' FAILURE.

Mr. C. E. H. Beavis appeared for the petitioning creditor in re Wong Chee alias Wong Yui Man and Wing Lung firm, lately trading as rice dealers at 105, Wing Lok Street. He said that he understood that, at the last meeting of creditors, a resolution was passed that the debtor be adjudged bankrupt.

His Lordship.—Do you wish for adjudication? Mr. Beavis.—Yes, my Lord.

The application was granted, and as the debtor had deemed it prudent to clear from the scene of his toil the usual proceedings were taken with a view to ensure his attendance before the Court.

A BAD SPECULATION.

In explaining the facts relating to the failure of Li Lai, Mr. Beavis, who asked, on behalf of the debtor, for a receiving order said that the usual affidavit as to the man's property had been filed. There was a debt of \$6,500 on a third mortgage on certain property and the mortgage was adjudged bankrupt two years ago. That was the debt and practically unrepayable. The Chief Justice failed to see what object there was in making debtor bankrupt if there were no assets to divide. Mr. Beavis thought that the Official Receiver might be able to do something in respect of the mortgage. Sufficient would be forthcoming to pay the bankruptcy fees. The Chief Justice asked if there was likely to be anything left out of the bankruptcy of the mortgage.

Mr. Beavis replied that the estate should certainly realise enough to pay between twenty and thirty per cent. of the owner's debts. It would bring in about \$1,000.

THE WEALTH OF JAPAN.

Some interesting remarks were made by Count Okuma at the dinner given in his honour at the Bankers' Club on the 28th ult. The subject which Count Okuma set himself to discuss was the cause of the financial prosperity of the country. The nation, he pointed out, had borne a burden of ¥1,300,000,000 and were willing to bear more; the last three issues of the domestic loan had been a splendid success, and the war loan issued abroad had been covered more than ten times over. Count Okuma estimates the wealth of Japan at between twelve and sixteen billions and the annual produce at between 1,300 and 1,800 millions yearly. Of this latter 1,500 were consumed yearly, so that the surplus wealth accumulated by the country had reached about 400 millions. This was not in itself large enough to account for the financial power displayed by Japan, and Count Okuma looked to the fact that Japan still remained an agricultural country to account for the remainder. One third of the increase of wealth in Japan, he said, consisted of agricultural produce, the production of which had not decreased in spite of the absence at the front of half a million men, in proof of which statement the Count assured his hearers that there would be an increase of 30 per cent. in the barley crop this year. The conclusion he arrived at was that a country having an extensive agriculture and primitive industry was the fitter for war, and in confirmation of this he referred to the Thirty Years' War, the Seven Years' War and the Napoleonic Campaign. The European countries of to-day, he thought, were hardly able to endure a campaign lasting three years without complete financial disorganisation.

It is somewhat difficult to follow Count Okuma's figures. Thus, without knowing the basis on which he estimates the wealth of Japan, it is impossible to criticise his conclusion that it is between twelve and sixteen billions of yen. It may be noted that Sir Robert Giffen in 1888 estimated the national wealth of the United Kingdom, public and private, at £10,037,436,000 which is roughly a hundred billion yen. Whether the national wealth of Japan is a seventh that of the United Kingdom is a question too large to discuss at the present time. As regards private wealth, roughly speaking, Japan has not such a large number of very rich men as there are in Great Britain, though on the other hand it is doubtful whether it has such a large number of absolutely poor. The wealth of the country is more evenly distributed. Count Okuma further estimates that the actual wealth—using the word in its strictly correct sense—is four hundred millions a year. That is to say surplus wealth created by the labour of the people is valued at ¥400,000,000. Here we may point out that in the United Kingdom the addition to the capital wealth of the country during the last ten or twelve years is estimated to have been at the rate of £100,000,000 a year, or roughly about double the rate that Count Okuma estimates for Japan. Count Okuma's reference to one source of power lying in the fact that Japan is an agricultural country is the most interesting part of his speech. It is true that a country that grows her own food and does not depend upon outside supplies is in a better position to wage a long war than a purely manufacturing country which depends more or less on outside sources for supplies. Japan, however, is neither in one position nor the other. For instance, the reports for January show that while the total value of the rice exported was some ¥270,000,000 the value of the rice imported was over three million yen. If we conclude that the value of the rice exported was equal, at the place of sale, to the value of the rice imported into Japan, we should have to fix the value of Japanese rice at ten times the value of foreign rice. Evidently there is a shortage in Japan's crop of the national food. Count Okuma's statement that agricultural produce had shown an increase, in spite of the fact that half a million of men are at the front, requires some figures to prove it. If it be the case we can only have two conclusions, either that the agricultural workers have done extra labour to make up for the absent men, or that the absence of the men has not been noticed—that is to say, they did not form part of the working population. The last alternative is absurd, and the former implies that under normal conditions the full

producing power of the people is not developed. If with half a million of men absent whose support, moreover, is borne by the workers, since they are not able to support themselves when at the war, the wealth of the country does not decrease but actually, as Count Okuma suggests, shows an increase, it is plain that a great anomalous condition prevails in this country under normal circumstances. Optimism is no doubt a very good thing—though its assumption is often a cloak for pessimism—but statesmen have to beware of lulling their countrymen into a state of false security. So constant, however, are the assurances given of the stability of affairs that we should not be surprised if later some statesman does not discover that the war, so far from injuring, is actually improving Japan's financial condition.

—*Japan Daily Herald*.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Field Marshal Marquis Oyama may almost be said to be the organizer of the Army as it is today. Born at Kagoshima in the 13th year of the Tempo era, he took part in the sanguinary affair at the Teradaya Restaurant in Fushimi just before the Restoration; and, when the civil war broke out, served under the last General Saigo in the campaign against the Shogun's troops in North-Eastern Japan. In 1870 he went to Europe to watch the progress of the Franco-Prussian war and was present at the siege of Paris. On returning in 1873 he was appointed to the Army Department, successively holding the office of Major, then Colonel and finally Major-General. A few years later he was sent to Europe to study military tactics and spent a considerable period in France and Switzerland. On coming back to Japan he was appointed Rikugunjo. In the 9th year of Meiji (1877) we find him at Kumamoto engaged in the suppression of a disturbance there. On restoring order he took the command of Kumamoto garrison, from which post he was very soon transferred to Tokio as Acting Minister of the Army and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in the capital. In the following year (1878), when Saigo Takamori raised the standard of revolt, Major-General Oyama went into Kiushu at the head of a Division and took part in one of the severest and most bloody engagements of the struggle—that fought at Tawarasaki before Kumamoto Castle was relieved. On his return to Tokio he was warmly thanked for his services by the Emperor and appointed Vice President of the General Staff Office. In 1881 he was appointed Minister of the Army and while acting as such positioned the Government—in conjunction with Mr. Yamagata (the present Marquis and Genro)—to build a series of forts for the protection of Tokio Bay. He was made a Sangi in 1881. In 1884 he again went to Europe to study the military systems of the principal Powers. While there he was raised to the peerage, with the rank of Count. Returning here two years later, he set to work to reform and remodel the military system of the Empire, doing much to place the army in that wonderfully efficient state which is to-day the admiration of the world. In 1889 he was appointed Kwangun, a high military post which he subsequently resigned in order to take the portfolio of the Minister of Education for a period. He returned to active service in 1893 and became again Minister of War. During the China War in 1894-95 he commanded the 2nd Division and served with distinction throughout the campaign. For his brilliant services in that war he was decorated on his return home with the Order of the Golden Kite and the Grand Order of the Paulownia. In 1899 General Oyama was appointed a member of the Genjui Fu (Field Marshal's Office), and made a Field Marshal of the Empire.—*Kobe Herald*.

CHINA'S INTEGRITY.

WILL IT BE RESPECTED IN THE PEACE SETTLEMENT?

It is becoming quite apparent now, observes the *San Francisco Chronicle*, that all of the efforts of the State Department to preserve the integrity of China, that is, to save that vast untamed empire from being partitioned among alien nations, are liable to be defeated in the settlement

ter of fact the contractor owed him a lot of money. He built the houses badly and abandoned. In paying him he gave him three or four orders for rice on the Kwong Tak Wing. He got his ready money by selling some little property he possessed to his concubines. There was no money whatever now in the business of the Kwong Tak Wing.

Re-examination of the property he sold to his concubines was subject to a satisfactory and lengthy mortgage.

Wong Nai Kah, son of Wong Sing Tuck, deceased, gave the names of the partners in the Kwong Tak Wing. Wong Sun Nam was not a partner. He was his cousin. He joined the firm as a boy and after being in California some time he returned to the firm as salesman at \$10 a month. He drew no percentage out of the business. Wong Sing never was at any time partner in the business.

Wong Chung Yee, also a son of the deceased Wong Sing Tuck, denied that Wong Sing Nam was a partner. When Wong Sing Nam returned from America he came back to the shop as a buyer and seller.

Wong Mow Sang, brother of the defendant, Wong Sing Nam, said he was for some years employed as shop coolie in the Kwong Tak Wing firm. He never understood that his brother was a partner in the firm.

Cross-examination: He really knew nothing about the case except what he had been told.

This concluded the case, barring arguments, which His Lordship will hear at 10.30 tomorrow morning.

DEFENDANT ARRESTED.

The case of the Wing Ching Fat firm against the Kwong Tak Wing and in the matter of the issue Wing Ching Fat firm against Wong Sun Nam again came before His Lordship Sir Henry Berkeley, Chief Justice, in the morning. Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court this morning, was whether Wong Sun Nam was a partner in the firm of Kwong Tak Wing. The plaintiffs had obtained a judgment against the Kwong Tak Wing, and Sir William Goodman ordered the issue to be tried as to Wong Sun Nam's standing. The judgment was in relation to flour which had to be delivered by plaintiffs, but which was not taken up when delivered. It was then sold by auction at a lower price. The present action, by consent of the parties, was all to decide another action—No. 85 of 1904.

The Chief Justice in giving judgment said that the appearance of the defendant in the witness box was such as would lead one to suppose that he was not speaking the truth. He gave his evidence in a way which a man who knew he was not speaking the truth would do. The evidence for the plaintiffs showed that the defendant had acted in every respect as if he were a partner. The two plaintiffs were told by defendant and another man that defendant was a partner; the broker who gave evidence, deposed that defendant acted as though he was a partner; the defendant showed that defendant acted as though he had a living interest—a share—in the Kwong Tak Wing. It was quite true that the person who could speak most positively as to whether defendant was a partner or not were the defendant and his witnesses, but that of course would depend on the truth of their statements. The Chief Justice did not believe that he spoke the truth and held that defendant was a partner at the time the cause for action arose.

Mr. Pollock applied for immediate execution against defendant, which request was granted. Defendant was thereupon arrested. Judgment was given for plaintiff.

RUSSIAN FINNS IN COURT.

AFRAID TO GO TO JAPAN.

An interesting case, in which seven Russian Finns were charged with refusing to proceed on the s.s. *Resolut*, to Japan, came before Captain L. Barnes Lawrence, J.M., at the Marine Court to-day. Captain Martin Jorgensen master of the *Resolut*, stated that the men had refused to work and the vessel had been kept in Hongkong for some days on account of their obstinacy.

"Three of the men spoke English, and on being asked whether they would proceed to Japan, they replied that they had signed on to be paid off at Hongkong."

Captain Jorgensen said the men were engaged for three months at Cardiff to proceed to "Hongkong and further." The vessel had a cargo of coal for Sasebo, Japan. In his opinion the men were frightened.

One of the crew remarked that they were not frightened at all. They had signed to go to Hongkong and there they intended to stay. They refused to go to Japan.

Captain Barnes Lawrence pointed out to the men that they had agreed to go to "Hongkong and further," which was the usual form of Norwegian agreement. It was true that coal was contraband of war, but in this case there was no risk involved. Between Hongkong and Japan there was absolutely no risk whatever, because the nearest Russian warship was at Madagascar, some thousands of miles away. Had there been any risk he would have taken that into consideration.

It was urged by the men that their Consul at Cardiff had not explained to them what they had signed. Four of the men said they clearly understood the charge and were determined not to go aboard ship again.

His Worship remarked that they had only a month to serve until they were discharged from the ship.

The men, however, remained obstinate and a sentence of three months' imprisonment was imposed. In the case of the other three men, His Honour said he was not convinced that they understood the charge, and he ordered that they be taken back to their ship.

The prisoners were removed, but second thoughts proved better and they one and all begged to be taken back to ship rather than go to gaol. They were therefore escorted back to the dock and the Bench was informed of the men's desire.

Captain Barnes Lawrence remarked that it was fortunate he had not recorded the sentence which had been passed on them, otherwise it would have been irrevocable. However, they now agreed to go back to ship and he would allow them to do so, at the same time warning them against committing further disturbances.

The men, wearing a broad smile, were then escorted to the *Resolut*.

SPANISH SAILORS IN TROUBLE. Another case, exactly similar to the first, except that it was a crew mostly composed of Spaniards instead of Russian Finns, that was concerned in the matter came before Captain Barnes Lawrence to-day. Captain Olaf Johansson, master of the steamship *Kaarvæn*, charged 16 of his crew with impeding the voyage by refusing to work. The *Kaarvæn* is bound from Cardiff with a cargo of coal, and the men signed on to go to "Hongkong or further." They now alleged that they had signed to go to Hongkong and they wished to be discharged. They absolutely refused to go to Japan, except under a new contract. When asked whether they preferred to return to their ship rather than go to prison, they unanimously expressed their desire to go to prison. It is ship sentenced them to two months' imprisonment each.

HONGKONG

AS A NAVAL BASE.

CONSTRUCTIONS AT KOWLOON.

Although various rumours are current with regard to the possible reduction of the China Fleet we cannot see any signs of a change in this direction so far as Hongkong itself is concerned. Far from it the facts seem to point to an exactly opposite development. A notable change has, of course, been effected in the Naval Dockyard whereby it is anticipated much time will be saved. The small auxiliary yard at Kowloon which, until quite recently, borrowed what labour it required from the main yard at Hongkong, has now thrown open its gates on its own account and labourers are entered on that side independently. This, together with the large godowns for extra storage, which have been hired outside, point to the rapid growth that is taking place—a growth, moreover, out of all proportion to what has taken place in several years and which has been effected in the last few months. Simultaneously with the removal of the torpedo-boats to Lai-chi-kok which in itself what with the reclamation work and levelling going on in that neighbourhood, is no small undertaking. A large piece of reclamation work and jetty building has been in progress opposite the coal sheds at the back of the Victoria canal club.

Indeed, this coaling jetty is rapidly nearing completion now, as also is the work going on to reclaim ground in the immediate vicinity of the original wooden pier in the camber of the yard at Hongkong. All this points to an increase of premises on a large scale.

Recently a very fine building was raised at Kowloon and a good deal more building is being pushed forward; in fact, it looks very much as if in a time not very far distant the original character of the depot for torpedo-boats will be entirely changed to an extension of the dockyard while the depot itself will be removed to Lai-chi-kok.

Whatever may be the ultimate design, however, it is evident that an extensive increase of plant is in progress and this necessarily means an increased call for labour in the dockyard.

Sides all this there is the large piece of ground behind Wellington Barracks upon which a good deal of work is also being spent and this is to be Dockyard property also. We hear rumours about submarines and the turning over of submarine defences to the Navy in which case the present yard will probably include almost the whole of the ground up to the Blue Buildings.

All this argues an immense increase in stores and war material which by no means bears out the report about the decrease in fighting strength of the Fleet, what seems far more probable is that Hongkong will shortly become a large Naval base for what may practically be termed a Far Eastern Fleet comprising the stations of China and Australia and including the East Indies to a large extent.

It bids fair, in fact, to become one of the most important Naval Bases of the world.

RUSSIA SUING FOR PEACE.

REPORTED TERMS.

The Manila *Cablenews* prints the following as a "special" from St. Petersburg, dated 25th inst.:

Russia is making tentative overtures to Japan for peace. The main obstacle is Japan's demand of an indemnity of \$500,000,000. This is the halting place for the Bear. Russia feels that it would be too humiliating to pay any money to Japan for the termination of hostilities. She is willing to make the following terms:

Manchuria is to be conceded Chinese territory. Russia will evacuate Manchuria. Japan may make a lease from China of Port Arthur for 99 years.

Vladivostok is to remain Russian or to revert to China.

Korea is to be free with a Japanese protectorate.

The Russian fleet in Vladivostok will be the property of the Japanese. All Russian soldiers now in Manchuria and all prisoners held by the Japanese are to be free to return to Russia.

Russia, it is said, will persist in refusing a financial indemnity. This is just what Japan wants and must have. She will not be content to stop when her star is so high in the ascendancy and when so many hundred millions have been spent by her. A half billion dollars would be spent in reparation for her finances, and Japan argues that she would be worse than foolish to give Russia the advantages of peace at a time when Russian domestic affairs make it imperative, and also should er her money loss.

Russia, if several of her most distinguished officials may be believed, is determined eventually to win back the prestige lost in this war. Japan knows this and will not give up its position.

Russia is starting out to build a new navy, but it will be several years before even its beginning is seen. Meanwhile Japan has the absolute control of the sea, and Russia appreciates that this control actually means the upper hand in the Far East.

Even if Kuropatkin was reinforced to heavily as to be able to drive back the Japanese to Port Arthur, that fortress could hold out for years unless isolated by sea. But with ships bringing men and supplies from Japan there would be no possibility for Russia's recapturing it.

The people of Russia are demanding peace. Many of the subsidized and brow-beaten newspaper pretend to believe otherwise, but the sentiment for the ending of the war is overwhelming. If peace does not come speedily, revolution will end the present rule in Russia.

TANJONG PAGAR DOCK BILL.

FORESHADOWING AMENDMENTS.

At the meeting of the Singapore Legislative Council on the 10th ult., Mr. Sheldoff, at the conclusion of the ordinary business, said he wanted to take that opportunity of asking His Excellency whether he could consider the postponement for another week of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Bill in the Committee stage. The reason of his request was that they were not really ready. The Company had had out of its legal advisers at home a series of amendments and also the provisions of the Water Companies Acts and on the previous day he had been informed by one of their legal advisers here that he had hardly time in which to do the thing thoroughly and place it before the Council. Further it appeared to him that the amendments that they proposed should be in the hands of the Council some little time before the Bill came up so that they might be considered and members might learn the true state of matters. It was possible also that the Government might be suggesting amendments, and he ventured to think its amendments, should be in the hands of the Council for at any rate a week before the Bill came up for consideration in Committee. There was no desire on the part of the Company to delay or

hamper the Bill. They all recognised that the sooner they got out of the present interregnum the better; but at the same time it was very necessary that the clauses of the Bill should be thoroughly threshed out, and therefore, he would ask His Excellency to favourably consider his proposal.

His Excellency remarked that he might say at once that one of his principal reasons for wishing to take the Committee stage next week was that he thought it was very desirable that as many members as possible who had taken part in the second reading of the principal Bill should be here to take part in the discussion in the Committee stage. They had already lost the services of one member and he regretted to say they would shortly lose the services of another member, and he considered it very desirable that at any rate on part of the Committee stage they should have the benefit of the very valuable assistance which the hon. member he referred to had always rendered them in Committee. He was very reluctant upon that account to postpone the subject, but he did not think they would get through the whole Bill at one sitting; that was extremely unlikely. Perhaps it would meet the views of the hon. member if they did what they could at the first sitting and adjourned then for a week or at any rate a few days so as to give the Company time.

Mr. Napier said this was a very important matter from the point of view of the Company. He thought they should have full time to consider all the amendments which they desired to bring before the Council and also full time to consider the Government's amendments too. Personally, he thought that if the Company said they were not in a position to proceed they should get time to prepare.

His Excellency said the Government would have no amendments to bring forward with regard to the expropriation of the Company. The amendments of the Government would be confined to the other parts of the Bill which provided for administration and management. He did not want to appear ungracious, but he attached very considerable importance to what he had already mentioned, and after all, the Bill had been before the Company since the 20th of January. They were now at the 10th of March, and that seemed to him a very considerable time for the Company as well as for the Government to consider the clauses of the Bill and make up their minds as to the form in which they desired amendment. He would prefer to have at least one sitting in Committee on the 17th of March and he would be quite willing—in fact, he thought it would be necessary—to have more than one sitting in Committee; and with regard to the paper he should not be prepared to press the matter at all.

Mr. Sheldoff agreed that as the amendments were more on the latter half of the Bill, they would not press the proposal for delay if the Bill was not going to be pushed through Committee at one meeting.

His Excellency did not expect at all that they would be able to finish the Committee stage at one sitting and he was quite willing that it should be understood that the Bill would not pass through Committee without at least one more meeting.—*Straits Times*.

THE RECENT DIVIDEND.

Two or three points are pretty sure to occur to the disinterested mind over the recent dividend declaration of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company, after providing copiously for all eventualities, of 20 per cent per half year, say 40 per cent per annum. But even 20 per cent per annum is not an ordinary trading profit. Dividends of 6, 7, 8, up to 10 per cent may be, and many trading or shipping companies can make that. The ordinary person would say that the T.P.D. dividends verge rather on those belonging to highly speculative successes, and must have been rendered possible either by spending too little on development, or making too much out of charges on shipping. It was naturally the opening of the Suez Canal that made Tanjong Pagar's present prosperity possible. The old Cape route to China via Sunda Straits would never have done anything like that for Singapore, or any concern connected therewith. The Company's energy has done something, but the force of circumstances has done more. Things might have drifted on, and interests continued to be sundered, had not the London Advisory Committee's usurpation of control over mere local mercantile delegates awakened the public mind to the realities of the situation, namely that T. P. D. that is to say, the commercial life of Singapore, was to be run by an entirely irresponsible body of gentlemen in London, to whom "Singapore" was convertible with share value and dividends and good fat investment. There is no moral wrong in the situation. Like Topsy, it has "grewed of itself." But the convenience of the old days of control in Singapore has insensibly turned to the inconvenience, even danger, of what is now practically a foreign control in London many thousands miles away. No mind with any pretence to a right comprehension of the problems of administration or of statesmanship, would assent to a divorce of control from responsibility, which should be localised exactly where the operations to be controlled are localised. That a board of highly estimable gentlemen in Fenchurch Street in London should pull all the strings of Singapore shipping, docking, and wharves is about as proper as it would be for the Government of New Zealand to run the affairs of the London County Council. Or to take a more familiar case, it is much on a par with the construction of Singapore railway as run by the Crown Agents. In the above, of course, there is no reference to the topic of compensation on expropriation, which will be settled on proper lines, but merely to the anachronism of a distant irresponsible control of the great vital shipping interests of this port, the very pivot of its existence.—*S. F. Press*.

COUNCIL IN COUNCIL.

At the Singapore Legislative Council on the 17th inst., the all-important order of the day was the Committee stage of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Bill, for which permission had been obtained for Council to consider Council.

Accordingly Mr. H. Fort and Mr. E. C. Ellis were in attendance in gown and band. The arrangement of the Council table has been altered, being now arranged in the form of the horse shoe, for which the Press are duly grateful, as the reporters have now a fair chance to hear what is going on, and the appearance of the Council Chamber, with His Excellency seated beneath the Royal Arms and the clock, decidedly gains dignity.

In moving the Bill into Committee the Attorney General said he had a great advantage to the Government to have the amendments drafted for the Co. as they would save time and prevent much controversy. They were practically agreed on many of the points touched by the amendments. For instance, the preamble said property and assets, but they were both agreed that "undertaking" included these and the implied liability also. The Government were quite prepared to accept many of the amendments, which seemed reasonable and also attained the object which they both desired.

The Attorney General then proceeded to discuss the Company's amendments, when Mr. Napier pointed out that the Council had not got them. But even as he spoke they were placed in his hands.

As regards section 12, the Attorney General said that the Co. had prepared an amendment and the Govt. one also.

Mr. Fort interposed that they were not identical. The Attorney General admitted that, but he opined there would be no difficulty in coming to an agreement in most matters.

MR. FORT FOR THE COMPANY. A TWO HOURS' SPEECH.

Mr. Fort then opened on behalf of the Company and occupied the attention of the Council for two hours. His speech teemed with legal points and he quoted authorities and sections of ordinances enough to satisfy an appeal court. But it was not all plain sailing, for on several points he was questioned by the Governor and an interesting little argument took place between Council and what was almost Court, which ended in quite the approved style, when both sides had had their say out, by a sort of "the court will consider" and then the next point was taken. Mr. Fort's strength was the clearness with which he marshalled his arguments, the abundance of precedent he could quote in most cases, and also in quite the happiest and most stylish style of meeting objections on the spot of the moment. The Metropolitan Water Act was in great evidence, and Mr. Fort did not hesitate to trace the famous 15 per cent for compulsory acquisition through the intricate wordings of local and Indian law. It is impossible to give more than a glimpse of Mr. Fort's arguments, and indeed to the lay mind, without the bill and the statute book beside them, they would be mostly technical.

Mr. Fort commenced by thanking the Council for hearing the Company by Counsel and said he proposed to confine himself to amendments concerning the taking over of the Co., leaving alone the parts of the bill which affected the working of the Board when it was taken over; except so far as their present servants and officers are affected. That was a point which seemed rather to have been overlooked in the original drafting of the bill. Their amendments fell into groups, the first of which was, what was the undertaking to be taken over by the Government and the new Board. There was not much doubt as to the intention: it was to take over the whole undertaking, both the rights and liabilities of the concern. Hence the substitution for the words property and assets, "the undertaking." The second group of amendments were directed to the question of what is to be the basis of compensation to be paid to the Co. "On account of this is, and the third group of amendments were directed to the question of the basis of compensation for compulsory expropriation is the theme. The Co. desired to move an amendment, instead of "not make any allowance for the compulsory" but the Council shall "in addition to the value of the undertaking allow fifteen per cent on the value of all lands belonging to or in possession of the Co., in consideration of the compulsory nature of acquisition." His main argument was that the statutory law awarded fifteen per cent. compensation for compulsory acquisition under the acquisition of land for public purposes Act, and he could not see any reason for depriving the Co. of a like compensation. He dealt with the original Indian Act of 1870, the local Act of 1890, the Singapore Tramways Act of 1882, the Penang Tramways Act 1885, and finally the Singapore Tramways Act of 1902.

The Government pointed out that that was a case of agreement between parties which really only came to the Council to be formally recorded.

Mr. Fort contended that the Co. ought at least to get the 15 per cent. on all its land.

The Government said it was not possible to separate the value of the lands from the value of the property. They were taking it over as running concern and it was impossible to differentiate between, say, the land on which the machine shops stand and the machine shops themselves.

Mr. Fort contended that the Government here had formally accepted the principle that the person from whom land was compulsorily acquired should receive fifteen per cent compensation and there was no reason for withholding it in this case.

The Governor pointed out that one of Mr. Fort's amendments asked for fifteen per cent and the cost of reinstatement.

Then ensued a pretty passage of arms in which the Council said they did not ask for both—but they would not be averse to taking both. But the question of the fifteen per cent was far more important than the cost of reinstatement.

After various other amendments explaining the scope of, and laying stress on the necessity of compensating the employees of the Co. who might be the Directors who might be, and the London Consulting Committee who would be, disappointed, all of whom would lose a great deal. Mr. Fort concluded after exactly two hours' speaking by touching upon the provision of money to enable the Co. to complete its business.

The Governor said the Council was much indebted to Mr. Fort for the able and lucid manner in which he had laid the various points before Council and asked Mr. Ellis if he had anything to say.

Mr. Ellis thought he had nothing to add—on which the Council, which had then been sitting two hours and twenty minutes, looked relieved.

The Bill was then taken in the Committee stage.

Sections 1 to 12 were allowed to stand over and the conflict of debate arose again about that principle of

FIFTEEN PER CENT COMPENSATION.

Mr. Sheldoff moved the required amendment to give the fifteen per cent. He had very little to add to what Mr. Fort had said as regards the section, but he would like to point out that not so very long ago the Government were wanting to buy the Co.'s land for a railway and were willing to pay the 15 per cent for compulsory acquisition. There was no reason why they should not pay that now. Then the Co. had property in Collyer Quay and elsewhere on which buildings had been erected and which returned a certain rent to the Co. For these lands it was surely only just that the provisions of the ordinance of 1892 should hold. There was the land in Neil-road, which the Co. not long ago had valued for the purpose of raising money, and which was not required for the purpose of the Co., and which he presumed the Government would eventually have to sell. That he took it ought to have the fifteen per cent put on. There was also land in Tanjong with a house on it. These lands had no connection with what His Excellency had called the "undertaking."

Mr. Waddell seconded the amendment.

The Attorney General said there was a great difference between an ordinary purchase of land for public purposes and the transaction they were now discussing. In England it was customary to give an amount of compensation for compulsory acquisition, but that was for some injury which could not be fairly well defined. But they found that in all those cases there was a personal interest concerned which was absent here. The shareholders had no personal advantage out of their land, they neither lived on it, nor cultivated it, did not lay down on it, and no one could lay claim to any particular part as who should say this particular quarry, or this pile, or this piece of coal wharf is mine.

Mr. Napier: It appears to me that there is a considerable difference between the compulsory purchase of an undertaking like this and land. If any one wanted to take a piece of the bottom of my garden to which I objected, the payment of fifteen per cent would not be a sufficient solatium for the acquisition of the land. But when one looks at a commercial undertaking it is a different matter. When I have said that, I should add that it appears to me that I should like some definite statement with regard to the basis on which the undertaking is to be taken over, because there, it seems to me, lies the whole crux of the matter. If you take over the business of the Dock Co., are you going to take the land, so much for the wharves, so much for the plant, and the rest of it, or are you going to take over the business and pay something for the goodwill? I imagine myself that something will have to be given for the goodwill and in that case I do not see the claim for 15 per cent extra can be sustained for this reason—in brief, that the Co. is a Dock Co. and not a Co. for the purchase or acquisition of land. Doubtless they have the power to purchase land, yet such purchases and resale are not the main objects and purpose of the undertaking. As I say, if they are to be compensated simply for the value of the land and nothing for the goodwill or business, or whatever we like to call it, then the fifteen per cent on the value of the land should be added. It seems to me that the land is part of the needs for the business and accordingly should not be compensated for, if they are paid for the goodwill of the business. As I limited at last meeting it appears to me that the circumstances of the Metropolitan Water Acts are very similar to this. According to the law of England, although there is no statutory duty to that effect, there is a custom that some compensation should be paid and that customary duty is taken away by the Bill. I cannot see why this statutory duty here should not also be taken away. If it is fair to do so in England it is fair to do so here. It seems to me to be a matter very largely dependent on the principle on which the undertaking of the Co. is to be valued. (Heard, hear)

The Governor said it was perfectly clear that the Bill was for taking over the undertaking as a going concern in the position it is now in and if Government were going to take it over on that basis, it was clear that there would be a payment for goodwill. On that point he hoped Mr. Napier would be satisfied that what he had styled goodwill would be amply provided for—and no doubt would be fully claimed by the Company. The position was very different from that in the ordinary case of the acquisition of land for public purposes. Here the shareholder has hold of a particular investment which brings in a certain income and has done so for many years. Government is now in the public interest asking them to give up that investment. "We will buy it up at its full value and provide you with whatever it costs to find another investment." It is not a compulsory acquisition of land but a compulsory change of investment. He spoke from the point of view of the shareholders and that was the only moral question of right as to these lands. It was only individual shareholders that could complain. When the transaction was completed the Co. would cease to exist. In the ordinary case of acquisition of land the owner did not cease to exist. Here the Government went to the individual shareholder and said: "If we compel you to give up your investment we give you full value for it and provide the cost of finding another." In other words, we put you exactly in the position you are now in: we do this in the public interest. It did not seem to him that there could be a claim to anything more. The offering of an extra sum for compulsory acquisition is not a custom but a statutory right, and we are not bound by precedent, but if we were, as the Attorney General has pointed out, the precedents as all in our favour, where the Co. has been bought up and ceases to exist. They had to buy out the shareholders as regards their position. There was no question such as that arising when you turn a man out of his property, his house which he fancies, or which his family have held for generations. Then ten or twenty or forty per cent might not satisfy him. There may be indefinite consequences as regards a man's business or his convenience or family circumstances which would come in, which do not come in a case like this. We are buying out a Co. and that Co. ceases to exist. That is the ground on which we say Section 13 provides for all the requirements of justice, justice to the shareholders and justice to the Government and the public. (Applause.)

The question was then put and Dr. Galloway, Messrs. Sheldoff and Waddell voted in favour of the amendment. The remainder of the Council voted against it, and it was lost by eight votes to three.

Progress was then reported, but Mr. Napier asked, as it was not likely he would be at the next meeting, to be allowed to mention certain points. He touched on the uncertainty in the Bill as to who the property would be vested in, the Government or the new Board. Also as to section 12, the power of appeal, not favouring a stated case to one judge, but the Court of Appeal and the arbitrators having been asked to give alternative awards. Mr. Napier also mentioned the desirability of making it perfectly clear that the directors of the new board incurred no personal liability.

Council then adjourned.—*S. F. Press*.

TRADE MARKS: A MOST USEFUL PAMPHLET.

We have before us the English version of the proposals of the Deutsche Vereinigung, a most useful pamphlet on the vexed question of the registration of Trade Marks in China. Even those most conversant with the subject will be glad to have all that has been said or proposed respecting it thus brought together into convenient shape, while the great majority who, though interested, have been unable to keep run of the many regulations, suggestions, and counter suggestions that have been made will now for the first time have a comprehensive view of the whole question, and be in a position to discuss it intelligently.

The pamphlet is divided into seven sections or chapters—I. Provisional Regulations, II. Transitional Provisions, III. Detailed Rules in connection with registration, IV. Classification of goods, V. Correspondence between Sir Ernest Satow and Prince Ching, VI. Letter of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce to Sir Ernest Satow of Sep. 30th, 1904. VII. Resolutions passed by the China Association on Jan. 19th, 1905.

A convenient arrangement places the Provisional Regulations on one page and the proposals for their amendment on the other.

Why the seat of the Bureau of Registration should be at Shanghai and not elsewhere is first pointed out. Here, it would be "in the commercial metropolis of the Empire," and its business would be much facilitated by the possibility of personal intercourse. Applications from outports would be forwarded through the Customs. Prior to registration it is suggested that every mark should be published for six months in the Trade Marks Gazette, a custom in accordance with English usage, and provided for in Sir Robert Hart's proposals.

Five grounds are suggested for the refusal to register:

- 1.—If the mark is liable to give offence or is calculated to deceive.
- 2.—If it contains emblems or words reserved for the Government use, e.g., Imperial or official seals, the national standard or military flags, or decorations conferred for merit.
- 3.—If it is identical with another trade mark.
- 4.—If it is an "Open mark" i.e., one in common use and not considered proprietary.
- 5.—If it contains no distinctive feature.

Another suggested ground for refusal to register is if the mark injures the legitimate interests in China of other parties. The various considerations, which would certainly arise out of this regulation were it adopted, are discussed in the pamphlet before us and should be duly noted.

Important suggestions as to the lapse of registration are to be found on p. 11, where it is suggested that one year before the expiration of the term of protection the Registrar shall write to the owner of the mark requesting him to declare whether or not he intends to apply for a renewal of the registration. If no reply is received at the end of six months the registration shall at the end of the term be cancelled.

The Deutsche Vereinigung agrees with the Chamber of Commerce as to the "unnecessary and vexatious" rule requiring re-registration when firms change partners. By another suggestion, the Registrar is required to give grounds for the cancellation of any trade mark "whenever the material interests of the parties concerned are involved."

On the important question of a Court of Appeal a good deal is said, but it hardly seems likely that old Shanghai hands will welcome the suggestion without very careful pre-arrangement of rules for procedure, &c., &c. since they are told that "The composition of the Court of Appeal has been modeled on the lines of the Mixed Court in Shanghai." We know that Court. The following are some of the proposed rules in the event of any infringement of the regulations:—

1. If the offender be a foreigner, the Registrar shall move the offender's Consul to deal with the case according to the Treaty.
2. If the offender be a Chinese and the injured party a foreigner, the Registrar shall communicate with the Consul concerned and the Chinese Authorities in order that a joint investigation may take place.
3. If both the offender and the injured party be Chinese the Court having jurisdiction will afford all necessary protection.

A re-adjustment in the scale of fees is required, especially if the "alternatives of registering old marks" referred to in the letter of the Chamber of Commerce be held to, for there it is stated that the observance of such a rule "under the present scale of fees would cost many of the older firms in Shanghai from Tls. 10,000 to Tls. 20,000." "Something more reasonable and less burdensome" is evidently needed, since the Chairman remarks "It was evidently not the intention of the British Government, when making the treaty, that the merchants should be in a worse position than they were before."

We repeat our opinion of this pamphlet. It is a most useful little compilation at this juncture and the thanks of the community are due to the Deutsche Vereinigung for publishing it.—*Shanghai Mercury*.

AN IMPROBABLE STORY.

The *Shanghai Mercury* prints the following improbable story from its vernacular contemporary, the *Eastern Times*—It is learned that the Governor of Hongkong sent a telegram to the U.S. Consul-General of this port, the other day, to the general effect that in view of Great Britain having the largest share of commerce at this port, it would be greatly impeded by the late arrival of so many Russians, who have occasionally created disturbances. The Governor therefore pointed out that the Russian Consul-General of this port should be approached, to send the Russians back home at an early date. At the same time the Russian Consul at Kiaochow should be informed by wire that hereafter Russians en route may be shipped home direct from Kiaochow, instead of from this port. The Municipal Council will shortly deal with the subject.

As already reported, Chang Su Ho's garden has been leased to the Russian Government for the accommodation of the Russians from Port Arthur during their temporary stay here and temporary quarters are being set up. Owing, however, to the telegram from the Hongkong Governor, all building work in this direction has been suspended until definite results have been arrived at by the Municipal Council.

THE LATE MR. R. D. SASSOON.

The announcement of the late Reuben Sassoon's death, which we made some weeks ago, was received amongst all those who knew him in Bombay with the profoundest sorrow. The following obituary notice above the initials "C.B." appears in a Bombay journal:—

Mr. Reuben was the fourth son of the late David Sassoon, the eminent Oriental philanthropist. He was born in the year 1834. In 1853 he married Kate, daughter of the late David Ezekiel, by whom he had one son and five daughters. He was a partner in the firm of David Sassoon and Co. and took a very active part in the business for a battery of years in Bombay, Hongkong, and London until his health could not permit him to do so any longer. He was a man of great ability and great linguistic attainments. For the last forty years he resided in London and enjoyed great popularity in the highest society. He was a particular friend of his Majesty the King for many years, and has entertained his Majesty on several occasions in his mansion, No. 1 Belgrave Square. Though of late years he was not in the enjoyment of robust health, yet he was remarkably active. Revered by his family, loved by his friends and esteemed by the aristocracy of London, Mr. Reuben Sassoon has passed away, and his loss will be keenly felt, especially among his own community, of which he was one of the most prominent heads. Mr. Sassoon went to England with the olive branch in his hand, he engrafted the cedar with the oak; but for spiritual elevation he clung to the creed of his fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, from whom he derived nobility he derived the shadow of his own. Mr. Sassoon was in the highest sense of the term a representative man of his race. There were few men who possessed his friendship and did not prize it. He was a man of very modest mien, and at all times he seemed more anxious to avoid than to attract attention.

But there was, nevertheless, an air of dignity and nobility about him which would have claimed attention amongst a strange multitude. The shell was worthy of the soul it contained, and, in the words of Hamlet, I may simply observe, that

HONGKONG AND MANILA.

PROSPECTS FOR THE YEAR.

CHAT WITH A MANILA MERCHANT-PRINCE.

Hongkong and Manila are daily becoming more closely allied in interests and trade. The prosperity of Manila is bound to affect Hongkong favourably, just as a slump at this port would probably be felt in some degree in the Philippines. In view of the close commercial relations which have been established, it was interesting to learn from the Chairman of the China and Manila Steamship Company, the other day, that prospects for the ensuing year are exceedingly bright. In corroboration of that, Mr. A. M. Barretto, the well-known firm of Barretto and Co., Manila, gave a representative of the *Hongkong Telegraph* some interesting particulars on the subject of the Hongkong-Manila trade to-day.

MANILA-BORN MERCHANT.

Mr. Barretto was born in Manila, and with the aid of his brother, Mr. R. E. Barretto, acts as General Managers of the La Insular Cigar Factory, which is probably the greatest of its kind in the East. The factory was established under the auspices of another well-known Spanish gentleman, the Hon. J. Sta. Marina. Besides, he is interested in numerous companies connected with the Philippines, and it is giving no secret away when it is said that he is one of the merchant princes of Manila. Lately, however, he has taken up his residence in Madrid and is now on his way home after a flying visit to the scenes of his youth and the centre of his success.

TRADE PROSPECTS.

On the subject of the prospects of trade in Manila, Mr. Barretto remarked—"The hemp and sugar crops are both good this year, and the proposal to start the Luzon Sugar Refinery again should have a decided effect in stimulating commerce generally. The Luzon Refinery has been stopped since the war began—the war between Spain and America, and the sugar that was grown had to be sent to Hongkong to be refined by the China Sugar Refining Company. A trial will be given to the Luzon refinery this year and we shall see whether it will pay or not."

FREIGHTS.

A question was submitted with regard to the probability of freights increasing between Manila and Hongkong. It may be remembered that in the course of his speech at the China and Manila Steamship Co.'s meeting, the Chairman remarked that "from Manila to Hongkong the scarcity of cargo depicted by his predecessor last year continued throughout 1904, although he was glad to say there had been an improvement in this respect lately."

THE CHINESE EXCLUSION LAW.

Mr. Barretto replied that they could certainly look forward to an improvement in the cargoes from Manila to Hongkong. "The Company, however, will experience the greatest benefit when the American Government has withdrawn its prohibition against the admission of Chinese to the Philippines. The Government will have, in the end, to admit the Chinese, simply that it may have sufficient labour. At the present time labour is getting dearer every day, and it is so scarce that improvements in public departments and projected increases in private businesses have to be carefully thought out from the labour point of view. The necessity for admitting the Chinese is patent to everybody who understands the position of the labour market in Manila to-day, but the authorities are under the American law which excludes the yellow race from the country. However, in my opinion, the time is not far distant when the law will have to be altered, and then there will be no more flourishing state in the Far East than Manila and the Philippines as a whole."

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP CO.

"With regard to the China and Manila Steamship Company, the bulk of their business at present is in carrying passengers. The boats on the run are the favourites; indeed, there is none that can compare with them, and when the Chinese are permitted to enter there will be a big increase in the passenger traffic, which should prove of great value to the China-Manila line."

THE RUMOURED COMPETITION.

"It was suggested, some time ago, that a Manila steamship firm was considering the idea of inaugurating a new line between Manila and Hongkong in competition to the existing lines. Is there any truth in that?" Mr. Barretto said he had heard the rumour, and knew the name of the firm who were supposed to be contemplating the scheme. "I don't think, however," he added, "that they could successfully compete with the present lines, which have established a reputation. The boats of the firm in question are old and small and not suitable for the passenger trade between Manila and Hongkong. Whether they would find sufficient cargo is also a question. Certainly they are not up to the mark as compared with the China and Manila Co.'s boats. Of course, once Manila is opened up, trade will improve and increase, but that will be some time yet."

NEW INDUSTRIES IN MANILA.

Questions were asked with reference to the establishment of new industries in Manila. "A good deal has been done in that direction," Mr. Barretto replied. "Recently a bottle-making factory has been started by a firm composed of Spaniards; and a match factory was opened by a Swiss firm. In other ways also the place is expanding and the introduction of the electric tramways to all parts of the city and suburbs should do much to help on the prosperity of Manila."

THE BURDEN OF TAXATION.

On the subject of taxation, Mr. Barretto held that at present the people are being far too heavily taxed. They have to pay something like 20 per cent. of their profits in taxes. He practically agreed with Mr. Alleyne, Ireland's views on the subject of the expensive character of the Government in the Philippines.

A CHANCE MEETING.

Curiously enough, after the interview with Mr. Barretto, the journalist was accosted by two Spaniards who wished to be directed to the American Consulate. They explained that they were returning to the Philippines, but before they could get back again they had to pay five pesos. They had paid two pesos before they were able to leave Manila for Hongkong. They were humorously indignant at the tax, and one remarked—"The joke of it is that my friend here is a doctor of medicine and he has to pay to have his health examined by another doctor!" These are the sort of things that seem funny to the man who has no intention of leaving Hongkong for Manila, but of course there is another side to the question.

The construction of the following railways in French Indo-China has just been officially authorised:—(1) An extension of the Saigon Railway to Khan-Hoa—cost, 20,000,000 fr.; (2) a line from Phan-rang to Daohien, being the first section of the Lang Bian branch line—cost, 11,500,000 fr.; (3) a line from Hue to Kwang-tai—cost, 7,500,000 fr.

MR. J. R. TWENTYMAN

INTERVIEWED.

FARNHAM, BOYDS.

Mr. J. R. Twentyman, the chairman of the S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd., arrived in the Colony to-day en route for Shanghai on his return from the mission to London in connection with the talks of negotiations for the sale of the company's business to an English syndicate. Mr. Twentyman's return to the East may give rise to considerable acrimonious discussion in the northern settlement when he reaches that port, especially when it is considered that much hope was attached to the possibilities of his negotiations being brought to a successful issue, although in our own judgment *bona fide* shareholders in that company have suffered nothing by the sale not having been effected. The potentialities of that vast undertaking when considered in relation to the termination of the war, which may not be long in accomplishing, and the enormous development in the shipping business in North China attending the conclusion of peace, cannot be over-estimated.

The explanations which Mr. Twentyman may have to furnish to the shareholders of the company, of which he is the chairman, will be learned with considerable interest not only in Shanghai, but also in this Colony where the doings of the Shanghai Dock Co. have a relative interest to us here.

MR. TWENTYMAN'S DENIALS.

A representative of the *Hongkong Telegraph* interviewed Mr. Twentyman on board the steamer *Prins Estel* Frederick just as the vessel was leaving the wharf at Kowloon preparatory to proceeding on the next stage to Shanghai.

Mr. Twentyman proved to be "as close as an oyster" on the subject of Farnham, Boyd & Co. Asked if his mission to London had been in his opinion successful, Mr. Twentyman replied—"I think so."

It is suggested to him that at one time the negotiations with the London syndicate had fallen through.

"Nothing of the sort," he replied. "They never fell through; there was never any suggestion that they had fallen through."

"But that was the current report."

"Then the current report was wrong. I wrote the telegram and surely I should know."

The pressman observed that a further telegram had been received in Shanghai when Mr. Twentyman was on the high seas stating that negotiations were still proceeding.

"And so they are," said Mr. Twentyman. "I know all about it," he added insouciantly.

Asked if he would make a statement for the benefit of Hongkong on the subject of his mission, Mr. Twentyman said:

"I am going to Shanghai to submit a statement to the shareholders here."

"But there are a good many shareholders in Hongkong?"

"I can't help that. I must wait until I reach Shanghai before I say anything in public with regard to my business."

"Are you satisfied with the result of your mission to London?"

Mr. Twentyman replied "Of course," then added—"But it's only one thing to get anything from me. What I have to tell will keep until I reach Shanghai."

A copy of to-day's Shanghai share report in which comment is made on Farnham, Boyd & Co. was tendered by the interviewer. Mr. Twentyman read it attentively, then folded it carefully, and put it in his pocket.

CHINA NAVIGATION CO.'S NEW STEAMER

LAUNCHED AT SHANGHAI.

Shortly after one o'clock yesterday, says the *N.C.D. News* of 22nd inst, the s.s. *Stangtan* was launched from Messrs. Farnham, Boyd & Co.'s Poo-ung Works. The weather was fine, and just before the launch the sun scattered the clouds and shone forth brightly. The vessel is built for Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's Tientsin-Lake route. The christening ceremony was performed by Mrs. E. F. Mackay, who broke the bottle across the bows of the ship at her first attempt. The *Stangtan* immediately began to slide down the ways, gathering speed as she went, until she reached the water.

After the launching ceremony the visitors proceeded to the adjoining office, where light refreshments were served. Mr. H. von Rucker, on behalf of the builders, thanked Mrs. Mackay for performing the launching ceremony and presented her with a lovely bouquet. He expressed a hope that Messrs. Butterfield and Swire would favour them with further orders.

Mr. Mackay replied suitably and congratulated the builders on their work.

Mr. Groundwater thanked Mr. Mackay for coming.

The *Stangtan* is 220 feet between perpendiculars, by 40 feet beam, and 10 feet moulded depth, and constructed of the minimum steel scantlings, consistent with strength and durability for ensuring a vessel of the least possible draft. She has been constructed to the design and plans supplied by the owners, which comprise many features and arrangements entirely new, and should prove a serviceable and good cargo-carrying, light-draft steamer. The passenger accommodation is most complete and every consideration has been paid to their being comfortably housed. The main deck has a deckhouse extending well fore and aft, in which will be fitted open berths for third-class passengers, while a space amidships is fitted up with cabins for second-class passengers. The first-class Chinese staterooms and saloon are arranged in a commodious house on the after part of the upper deck, while the forward part of this deck has a large house for European staterooms, saloon, and lavatories. The appointments and furnishings throughout are in every way equal to those in first-class river steamers, while the equipment, including steam warping capstans, steam windlass, and steam steering gear for working her two rudders, will render her safe and easy in handling.

The *Stangtan* will be propelled by two sets of direct-acting, inverted, triple-expansion jet-condensing engines, with cylinders 50 in., 24 in., and a stroke of 24 in., which will be capable of developing together about 600 H. P. at 250 revolutions a minute. The steam will be supplied by a Yarrow water-tube boiler for a working pressure of 250 lbs. pressure which will be reduced to 190 lbs. at the engines. She is fitted with a closed stockhold.

This boat is a departure from the usual practice adopted locally, and we have no doubt she will be the forerunner of many others for the special purpose for which she is intended. She has accommodation for eight foreign first-class passengers, eight first-class Chinese, and 144 third-class Chinese. There is good accommodation for captain and officers. Her light draft is about 3 feet, and loaded 7 feet, and her carrying capacity is about 750 tons. She has electric light throughout.

PRINCE FRIEDRICH LEOPOLD OF PRUSSIA

ARRIVES IN HONGKONG.

28th ult. H.R.H. Prince Friedrich Leopold of Prussia and suite arrived on board the German mail steamer *Prins Estel* Frederick this morning en route to the headquarters of the Russian army. He joined the ship at Genoa on the 27th February and his departure was made the occasion of considerable ceremony, as among those present to bid him farewell were the Princess, H.M. the Kaiser, the Crown Prince, Chancellor Count Billow, Baron Richthofen, the Secretary of the Foreign Office, Lieutenant-General Yin-chang, the Chinese Minister, and Colonel de Schebeko, the Russian Military Attaché. It will be remembered that the Prince made preparations to leave for the front many months ago, but was compelled to give up the idea at the last minute. At first it was his intention of leaving Berlin for Manchuria via St. Petersburg and the Trans-Siberian railway, but the lately-developed delays and dangers of this undoubtedly prevented him from making the journey overland.

H.R.H. arrived at Hongkong to-day by the German mail steamer, *The Gonsul*-General for Germany at Hongkong, Mr. O. F. Krüger, went aboard the vessel and was received by the Prince. About noon His Royal Highness came ashore and, accompanied by the Consul-General, proceeded to Government House, on a visit to His Excellency the Governor. Prince Friedrich Leopold returned to the boat in the course of the afternoon, having seen but little of Hongkong, on account of the inclemency of the weather. The steamer left at 5 p.m. for Shanghai.

On arriving at the southern settlement, H.R.H. was received at Government House with a guard-of-honour comprised of a company of Sherwood Foresters under the command of Major Kightly, Lieutenant Dumbell being with the King's colour. As the Prince's carriage pulled up under the porch the guard presented arms and the band played the national anthem. Prince Friedrich was welcomed by Sir John Anderson and immediately after inspected the guard, commenting on the smartness and shaking hands with the officers before going into lunch. During the afternoon he took a drive through the town to see the sight.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LD.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

28th ult. The ordinary meeting of shareholders was held at the Company's Hotel this afternoon. There were present, Messrs. W. Hutson Potts (chairman), who presided, E. Osborne, W. Parfitt, C. Mooney (secretary), Capt. Goddard, Captain Clark, D. Clark, A. H. Skelton, J. A. Jupp, Ho Fook, Ho Kam Tong, Lo Cheung Shiu, and E. J. Chapman.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, I will with your permission, take them as read. You will have noticed that the balance at credit of working account shows an increase of \$10,907.76 over the corresponding period in 1903, but the net balance of profit and loss is only \$4,718.98 in excess. This is accounted for by the smaller amount brought forward from the previous half year, viz. \$1,990, and increased interest on debentures and bank overdraft. It is gratifying to once more show an increase, the two previous half years having shown a large decrease; we are still, however, far behind the earnings of two years ago. During the greater part of the six months under review, the revenue from tourists and transient visitors showed little or no improvement, and we have had to depend mainly on monthly boarders at rates which, though they are generally supposed to be high, in reality would only yield about 4% on capital, if the Hotel had to depend entirely upon them. Our new building, Hotel Mansions, is nearing completion, and we should like to dispose of the balance of the debentures to meet the cost of the same. Repairs and renewals have exceeded the amount appropriated at last meeting by \$874.77, and there is every prospect of a further increase, as over and above the ordinary outlay, the outside of the building will shortly need painting. We have reduced the electric light plant by the \$20,000 set aside for that purpose in September 1903, as we do not consider it a marketable asset.

There being no questions asked the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Captain Goddard seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. E. J. Chapman proposed, and Captain Clark seconded, the re-election of Mr. E. Osborne to a seat on the Board of Directors, and this was heartily agreed to.

Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and A. R. Lowe, the retiring auditors, were unanimously re-elected on the proposition of Mr. T. Clarke seconded by Mr. Skelton.

This concluded the business, the Chairman announcing that dividend warrants could be had at the Secretary's office to-morrow.

Captain Goddard said that before they separated he should like to propose a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman and Board of Directors, Manager and Staff, for the way in which they had worked during the past year. If in the future they succeeded in doing as well as they had in the past few years, they must all be thoroughly pleased and contented.

Mr. Jupp seconded and the vote was unanimously accorded.

DEATH OF A PRISONER

AT THE GAOL.

At the Magistrate's this morning, before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, sitting as Coroner, an inquiry was held regarding the circumstances touching the death of Tang Yuen, a prisoner in Victoria Gaol, who was under sentence for robbery with violence. The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. J. L. Cotter (foreman), Solomon Curreen and Alexander Bryson.

E. J. Pierpoint, chief warder, Victoria Gaol, stated that the body which the jurors had just viewed was that of Tang Yuen, who was received in the prison on the 21st of September 1903, to serve a sentence of five years' hard labour, imposed upon him at the Criminal Sessions.

Harban Singh, assistant hospital warder at Victoria Gaol, said the deceased died at 12.25 a.m. to-day.

Dr. W. V. M. Koch, Medical Officer, Victoria Gaol, stated that on the 20th inst, he examined the deceased and admitted him to hospital. He was suffering from acute inflammation of the lower lip, extending to the left side of the face, and this developed into gangrene, on which he rapidly lost strength and died. He last saw him alive at 11 a.m. on the 24th inst, and left full directions for his treatment. The cause of death was, in his opinion, gangrenous stomatitis.

Death from natural causes was the verdict of the jury.

MAJOR PRITCHARD'S FAREWELL.

28th ult. There was an attendance of some 35 or 40 members at Volunteer Headquarters last night when Major Pritchard who took the chair made a short but interesting farewell speech. He did not intend, he said, to make a long speech; he had essayed that task at the inspection dinner held on Saturday, which by the way, was held without the inspection. He had waited for the inspection before going on leave, but he was now forced, owing to circumstances, to leave without being present at the inspection, which he regretted. He announced that Major Chapman would fill his position during the time he (the speaker) was absent from the Colony, and the Corps would be in good hands. Major Pritchard referred to the gun practice carried out during the year; it had been very good. The actual number of hits was not marvellous, but the conditions under which the practices were carried out were difficult. He hoped to hear that every unit intended to be represented in the Musketry Shield Competition which was to be fired off in April. They knew that Left half, No. 1 Company, had held the Shield for three years, but there was no reason why they should go on winning it. There were men in the other half companies capable of making decent scores, and the crack men did not always make possibiles. The speech made by His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan at the Officers' dinner on Saturday emphasized the need for more recruits. The establishment was 400, and he wanted to see that number increased to 600, but they had not reached 400 yet, but certainly ought to. The outlook was bright ahead; thirteen recruits had joined during the present month, which was very good for the last month of the year, and now that the inspection was postponed, more would probably join. Major Pritchard declared that after returning from leave—six months hence—he had still eighteen months to remain with the Corps, and before leaving it for good he would like to see the membership total at least 400. Referring to the proposal to rebuild the headquarters Major Pritchard announced, smilingly, that he believed that at last the work was to be put in hand. Volunteers might not believe it, but after the public statement made by His Excellency the Governor, Major Pritchard thought that the time was actually at hand when the work would be commenced. On many occasions the speaker had opined that the rebuilding of the headquarters would have an appreciable effect on the strength of the Corps and now that it was likely to come about he appealed to the Volunteers to see that the Corps did increase. In conclusion Major Pritchard asked the Volunteers to "play" up to Major Chapman as they had done to him (applause).

ASSAULTING A POSTMAN.

EUROPEAN CONVICTED.

28th ult. At the Magistrate's this morning, Mr. F. Fox, of 37, Conduit Road, appeared before Mr. Hazeland to answer a charge of assaulting a Post Office messenger on the 21st inst. The complainant stated that on Tuesday last he went to defendant's house to deliver a newspaper, and asked for eight cents due for extra postage owing to insufficiency of stamp on the wrapper. Defendant said he had not any change and told complainant to get some. Complainant, it was alleged, asked defendant to send his boy to get change, and as he refused he requested him to hand back the paper. According to complainant, defendant pushed him down the stairs so that he fell and hurt his hand and arm, and he then complained to the Postmaster and subsequently took out the summons—Defendant said the postman came to his house on the 21st inst, and handed him a paper, and asked for the eight cents denoted as due for postage insufficiently pre-paid. He told the man to give him two cents and he would give him a ten-cent piece.

His Worship: You have no right to demand change from the man, but should have got it yourself and paid the proper amount due.

Defendant said complainant refused to get change and became very cheeky and made remarks in Chinese which were evidently abusive. When the man demanded the return of the paper he gave it to him, and then, taking him by the arm, led him to the top of the stairs, and told him to get out. The stairs were very steep and the man slipped, and may have hurt himself. Defendant said he did not lift his hand to him nor in any way push the complainant.

His Worship said defendant was entirely in the wrong throughout, and he would be convicted and fined \$10.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY AT CAPE D'AGUILAR.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

From time to time there have been various rumours in circulation respecting the erection of a wireless telegraphy station in Hongkong, as a means of communicating with the ships of the British fleet in Mica Bay. The first attempt at transmitting messages by this method was made on top of the Peak, but owing to the exposed position and the difficulty of obtaining a good earth, communication did not prove satisfactory. As mentioned in a recent issue of this paper, it appears that Cape D'Aguliar has at last been selected as a favourable position and a party of men from the fleet have been busily engaged there during the last few weeks in putting up sheds and a mast as well as establishing an electric plant for the purpose.

Should this station turn out successful, and there appears to be some doubt as to account of the high land intervening, it seems probable that the bulk of the fleet will spend more time in Mica Bay even than at present.

We understand that the station is at present hardly beyond the experimental stage and will be worked by batteries instead of a dynamo as is used by Marconi for this reason it is not expected to have a very great range, though on account of the greater height through which the signal wire can be led from the sea level it is probable that the range will be greater than that of the ships and consequently approaching vessels might be signalled a very long distance away to, say, seventy or eighty miles.

It is quite possible for such a station to be able to receive signals from a ship almost out of range without being able to communicate, almost in the same way that a signal station possessing a large tripod telescope can receive signals which the seaman's glass of smaller calibre would be unable to distinguish in return.

The D'Aguliar station is being built under the superintendence of the officers of H.M.S. *Albatross*, and will, it is anticipated, soon be in working order though the present weather is calculated to hinder the work very much, the more so as the instruments are very susceptible to damp.

It is reported by the *Chefoo Daily News* that the Chinese Government intend to establish a complete system of wireless telegraph.

phy between Pao-tou-fu, Peking, Tientsin and elsewhere, and have already called to Italy for four complete sets of apparatus. Meanwhile arrangements are being made so as to admit of no delay in the setting-up process after the arrival of the apparatus. It is especially noticeable that the points chosen to be connected by wireless telegraphy are important from a military point of view.

RUSSIANS BURN JAPANESE TROOPS WITH PETROLEUM.

The Hiroshima correspondent of the *Asahi* has sent his journal a description of some of the fighting round Mukden, which he obtained from a Japanese who has just returned from the front. We translate from it the following allegations as to the use of petroleum by the Russian troops:—

On the morning of March 2, the Maruyama detachment belonging to the Japanese Centre, was ordered to attack Hulao-tsun. The position was protected by barbed wire entanglements, and other defences, and had five machine guns. In attacking it we suffered very severely, all our officers being killed or wounded with the exception of Colonel Kubota. We sought shelter in a Russian skirmishing trench which we gained possession of, but unfortunately it was very shallow and full of snow, so that it did not protect us when we stood up, while it was impossible to sit down in it without becoming benumbed by cold. Until the 4th we had to go without food and all our movements had to be made in a crouching position. We suffered severely in that many cases blood flowed from our mouth and noses. On the night of the 4th about one Russian battalion approached us in almost entire silence, and a severe hand to hand fight ensued, we being able to use our bayonets only. In the course of the fighting the Russians poured quantities of petroleum over our knapsacks and clothing and set fire to them, thus inflicting great suffering upon us. They also most barbarously cast petroleum over the wounded Japanese who were lying in their blood in the snow-covered trenches, and set them on fire. Our force had been almost annihilated when a battalion commanded by Major Oka came to our rescue, groping their way to us in the dark. The hand-to-hand fighting then continued, the men distinguishing their enemies by touching their caps. On the morning of the 5th we succeeded, after extreme difficulty, in driving back the enemy. In the trenches we subsequently found twenty Japanese who had been burnt to death with petroleum. We also discovered that non-commissioned officers Imama and seven others had their eyeballs gouged out.—*Kobe Herald*.

TANJONG PAGAR DOCK CO., LTD.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

In moving the adoption of the report and accounts at the half-yearly general meeting of shareholders in the Tanjong Pagar Dock Co. held at Singapore on the 18th inst., Mr. J. R. Nicholson (Chairman) said:—Gentlemen, the Directors have "pleasure" in presenting the balance sheet for the six months ending 31st December, 1904. It is one upon which the members may be congratulated. As your property is about to be expropriated, the Directors see no necessity to carry forward a large reserve which has been the practice of late years to meet expenditure on extension and new work, especially as there is no pressing necessity for doing so. The main works for which these reserves have been used such as railway and godown extensions, reclamations, etc., are completed, the limits of requirements for some time to come. You will see that \$200,205.73 have been written off for depreciation, a very liberal amount notwithstanding the low value at which your assets are shown. A sum of \$30,000 has been set aside to meet bad debts. In the profit and loss account there is an item of \$300,000, Stock Adjustment Account transferred. This sum was written off stores a few years ago to meet any extraordinary loss on stores depreciation and did not appear in the printed accounts. The stores have lately been checked and valued by independent valuers and now stand without doubt well below their value, there is therefore no reason why this amount should not be transferred. After providing for the dividend of \$20 per share the e remains a carry forward of \$206,645.52. There is another matter I wish to refer to. With reference to expropriation by Government, the Ordinance is now passing through Committee and the Directors are endeavouring to protect your interests and those of the employees by introducing certain amendments. We believe it is very unlikely that Government will make an offer at a price which the Directors could in fairness ask you to accept, and therefore it seems inevitable that the costly system of arbitration must be resorted to. I may say that with such in view, our preparations are well advanced and accountants, expert in this class of their business, are leaving London for Singapore this month. The Directors desire to express their regret that Mr. T. S. Thompson, who for 28 years has audited the Company's accounts, does not seek re-election. They wish to place on record their appreciation of his services which he has so willingly and impartially carried out. I am sure that, especially at this period of the Company's history, when as such it will shortly cease to exist, it will be with interest and no doubt with some pride that Mr. Thompson can recall during his many years of service his association with men who directed the affairs of this Company and to whose energy and foresight not only is its success due but that of the Colony itself. (Applause). I beg to move the report and balance sheet.

EMIGRATION AT SWATOW.

MEASURES AGAINST CRIMES.

The people of Ch'ao-chow, of which Swatow is the seaport, have at last been led to protest against the number of persons who have been lately touring that prefecture with the object of getting young men to go abroad as coolies and labourers. In their petition to Viceroy T'ien Ch'uan-huan asking for help, the petitioners declare that so many of their young and able-bodied men have been led by fictitious promises of future wealth to abandon their homes and go abroad that there are hardly enough men to cultivate the fields and famines stare those who remain in the face. In reply Viceroy T'ien Ch'uan-huan has sent instructions to the T'at'ai at Swatow to investigate the matter and to arrest anyone acting illegally in the pursuit of promising emigrant coolies.—*N. C. D. News*.

AN OFFICER ON ONE OF THE NORTHERN COAST STEAMERS

states that many floating mines are still to be seen in the sea, principally near Weihaiwei and round the Shantung peninsula; and that, although reported to the naval officials at Weihaiwei no steps are being taken to secure or explode them.

A QUESTION AT ISSUE.

27th ult. A curious partnership case came on for hearing before the Chief Justice (Sir Henry S. Berkeley) at the Supreme Court this morning. The parties were the Wing Chong Lee firm v. the Kwong Tak Wing firm, and in the matter of an issue Wing Chong Lee v. Wong Sung Nam. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Mr. H. D. C. Bailey, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. G. Calthrop (instructed by Mr. G. Hastings, of the firm of Messrs. John Hastings) defended. Mr. Pollock, in opening the case, said the plaintiffs obtained judgment against the Kwong Tak Wing, and Sir William Goodman in June last made an order that Wong Sung Nam was a partner in that firm. Now in February 1904, a four combine was formed between plaintiffs and five other Chinese firms included in the five being the Kwong Tak Wing. The object of the combine was to buy flour to be imported from Portland, Oregon. About a month after the combine was entered into, two persons came from the defendant firm to the plaintiffs named Wong Shing Tuck and Wong Sung Nam, with regard to a bill of exchange which had been drawn upon the defendant. They asked plaintiffs to put their chop upon it, on the back, when it came. Plaintiffs asked who were the partners in the Kwong Tak Wing, and Wong Shing Tuck said he was, that Wong Sim Nam was, and mentioned the names of two or three other Chinese gentlemen as being partners in the plaintiff firm. Wong Sung Nam afterwards himself admitted that he was a partner. The combine continued a little over a year, after which a second combine was formed in 1901, or only about two months after the dissolution of the first. The plaintiffs and defendants were two of the four firms which formed it. This finished operations in the following June. Wong Sung Nam now came forward with an affidavit that he never was a partner in the firm, but this could not be accepted and would tend to very seriously discredit his evidence. Whenever there was any quarrelling between the parties, Wong Sung Nam always was there to quell it.

Chau Kwong Iong, a building contractor, said he had been doing business in Hongkong fifteen or sixteen years. He knew Wong Sung Nam. The first dealing he did with him was in October, 1901, when in reply to a request he went to see him on business, on a matter of building some houses. He saw Wong Sung Nam, and witness asked regarding his stability. He said he had the business of the Kwong Tak Wing. The value of the nine houses to be built was \$35,000. Witness went to the Kwong Tak Wing to draw his money from Wong Sung Nam, and received part of what was due in money and part in orders for rice. His Lordship: You are quite certain that before you received these orders for rice, he told you he was a partner in the Kwong Tak Wing?

Witness: Quite certain, my Lord.

By Mr. Calthrop: Defendant did not tell him who were the partners in the Kwong Tak Wing firm.

Counsel: Did not defendant tell you he was just the managing *yok*?

Witness: No; he didn't; I asked who was the manager and he said "I carry on the business."

Counsel: Did you not know that he carried on the business, on behalf of the partners?

Witness: I do not know.

Counsel: As a matter of fact you did not know whether he was a partner or not?

Witness: No.

Chan Ngo Tang, partner in the plaintiff firm, was called, and said that he remembered in February 1900 two men Wong Sung Nam came to him with regard to a bill of exchange which they wanted him to guarantee. Wong Sung Nam then said he was a partner in the Kwong Tak Wing firm. He kept the books of the combine himself. He had separate dealings with the Kwong Tak Wing, but always through a broker, never having any interview with any of the partners.

IMPORTANT TEST CASE.

ADMIRALTY CONTRACTORS CONVICTED.

At the Magistrate's Court today Mr. F. A. Hazeldelivered his reserved judgment in the case in which Messrs. Purnach, Lowther and Co. were charged with using unlicensed cargo boats. His Worship said:—The defendants, Messrs. Purnach, Lowther and Co., were summoned before me, charged with unlawfully using cargo boats in the waters of the Colony without a licence, contrary to Ordinance No. 1899, and the regulations made under the authority of the same Ordinance. It was contended by the defendants that the cargo boats, the subject matter of this charge, are the property of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and not the property of the defendants. In support of this contention the solicitor for the defendants, put in a copy of the section of the contract made between the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and the defendants, Messrs. Purnach, Lowther and Co. The section is as follows:—"Until the completion of the works to be carried out under this contract all temporary buildings, appliances, plant and machinery, of all descriptions provided by the contractor for use on the works, shall, from the time they are placed on any part of the site apart by the Civil Engineer-in-Chief for the works at Hongkong, become the absolute property of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, but subject to the use thereof by the contractor or any other person or persons employed on his behalf, and shall not be removed from any of the sites without the previous consent in writing of the Civil Engineer-in-Chief. On the final completion of the works the whole of the buildings, appliances, etc., etc., referred to in this clause, shall be removed by, and at the cost of, the contractor, and upon such removal shall revert in and become the property of the contractor." It will be observed from the above section of the agreement that, before any property vests in the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, it is a condition precedent that it should only vest "from the time they are placed on any part of the site." By no stretch of language or juggling with words, can a cargo boat used for conveying materials to the works be regarded as having been "placed on any part of the site." I am, moreover, of opinion that it was not in the contemplation of the parties at the time of making this agreement that vessels used in conveying materials should be included in the agreement. Assuming for the purposes of argument that there is an ambiguity as to the meaning of the words "placed on any part of the site," it is a rule of construction that an ambiguity is to be construed most strictly against the promisee and in favour of the promisor. I am, therefore, of opinion that the cargo boats, the subject matter of this charge, are the property of the defendants, and not the property of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. By the regulations made under the Ordinance it is declared that all cargo boats must be duly licensed. I, therefore, convict the defendants. As the present proceedings are in the nature of a test case I propose inflicting a nominal penalty of \$5.

Mr. Wilkinson, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, said what was to be considered was that the question of "using" the boats was not dealt with. He applied to His Worship to state a case so that he might file an appeal on the question of ownership of the boats.

His Worship stated that on the usual deposit of \$500 he would state a case. Mr. Wilkinson then asked if Mr. Hazeldel would grant a re-hearing of the case, as he would produce further evidence as to ownership of the boats, the subject matter of this charge, when his Worship instructed him to renew his application this afternoon at 2.15 o'clock.

On resuming, Mr. Wilkinson made his application and asked Mr. Hazeldel to review his decision, the application being based upon the ground that His Worship did not appear to consider that the boats, the subject matter of the charge, had been placed upon the site, and had forgotten the admission made by Mr. Taylor in his evidence that they were within the area covered by the term "site." His Worship said he was not taking any stock in admission; clear and conclusive evidence was what was required.

Mr. Wilkinson, continuing, said that the reason for this clause in the agreement was that, in the event of the contractor failing to complete the contract, all the plant and appliances mentioned, which undoubtedly included the boats, would remain upon the site, and be used by the persons taking over the contract. It was abundantly clear that the intention of the parties was to include boats among the appliances mentioned. The "site" did not intend to apply only to land, but included the whole area of the dock wherein the work is going on.

His Worship said the agreement said "upon," and Mr. Wilkinson argued that that term was entirely correct. He stated that the application for a hearing was not on the ground that further evidence was necessary, but to have it proved that the craft in question was within the area indicated. His Worship said he had not read the agreement through, and under the circumstances he would grant the application for a re-hearing, and would take the case on Wednesday at noon.

MASONIC INSTALLATION.

At the Masonic Hall on Saturday evening the members of the United Mark Lodge No. 119 E. C. installed their Worshipful Master and his officers for the ensuing year. Worshipful Bro. A. O. D'Gourdin, P.M., was the installing officer, assisted by Bros. F. W. Edwards, H. Sykes, J. Bryant and J. Hoyle. The following were the officers selected to perform the various duties of the Lodge:—Worshipful Master; Wor. Bro. H. W. Wolfe; Immediate Past Master; Wor. Bro. W. H. Woolley; Senior Warden; Wor. Bro. H. Baker; Junior Warden; Bro. J. Gumbrell; Master Overseer; Bro. M. Taylor; Senior Overseer; Bro. C. Tuckwell; Junior Overseer; Bro. F. T. Robins; Chaplain; Bro. J. J. Bullen; Treasurer; Bro. W. Withers; Registrar; Marks; Bro. W. Ruse; Secretary; Bro. H. Carrad; Senior Deacon; Bro. J. French; Junior Deacon; Bro. J. Jones; Organist; Bro. J. T. Longest; Director of Ceremonies; Bro. A. C. Miles; Inner Guard; Bro. J. Smith; Stewards; Bro. W. J. Cast; Bro. C. H. Parkinson; Tyler; Bro. J. Vanstone. At a banquet which followed a toast list was gone through, the speeches being interspersed with songs by Messrs. Jenkins, Roberts, Power, Badcock, D. Laing, D. Brown, A. T. Walslow, E. Rogers, E. T. Watters, T. Bailey, T. Brad, H. W. Wolfe, and E. K. Udall.

The charitable institutions and native gentry of Canton have conjointly petitioned the local authorities to the effect that in view of many reckless youths within the limits of Chauchow having been kidnapped and sold abroad as slaves, against their will, drastic measures should be adopted to protect the local officials, responsible should be given the necessary instructions, and the different port should be reinforced.—*Shunwan*.

"ONE SUMMER'S DAY."

THE FORTHCOMING A.D.C. PERFORMANCE.

The Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club are showing unwon energy this season, a fact which is exceedingly pleasing to a large number of people. "Jane," the last piece staged, proved an immense success, and now it is proposed to give a representation of "One Summer's Day" by H. V. Esmond. The first performance will take place on 7th April.

"One Summer's Day" is almost idyllic in its conception. There are a couple of gypsies, a good uncle, who seeks to cover the errors of his brother, and a love story in which one friend offers to sacrifice himself for his friend. The scene opens on an island on the Thames where a couple of gypsies are discussing the noble art of blackmail. It seems that a military man married one of the gypsy tribe and made her quite respectable for a time. But the freedom of the open air appealed to her veins, and she fled leaving her husband and the deserted husband succumbed to the fever there, while the child is sent home to be adopted by an uncle, Major Dick. The gypsies in the meantime make Major Dick pay up for keeping a darling child from a loving mother's care, and the gypsies see visions of getting at least £50 a year from the Major.

Meanwhile, the ex-soldier's wife has retained her beauty, and continues to captivate all who come near her. Among those fascinated is a "boy of 17"—who has the disease badly. The comic relief is afforded by a stout old gentleman who thinks he is a painter and sees in the gypsy a modern Cleopatra. The fact that his wife believes him to be a sort of gay L'harion does not add to his comfort in marital harness, and when "the school-boy" finds that he is a rival, as he thinks, in the painter, there is some fun for the outsider.

Another love story is brought in. Major Dick and a military comrade are apparently both in love with Maymie. Major Dick, to hide the antecedents of his ward, the son of his brother who died in India, allows it to be believed that he has been married, that he is a blighted misogynist, and that he has no right to look for happiness. He fails to understand the real state of affairs so far as Maymie is concerned, and blindly begs her to have compassion on his hum.

The gypsies bring their scheme of blackmail to a head and boldly tackle Major Dick for money. What is their surprise to find that instead of money they are offered the custody of the boy, and Chiara (which is pronounced Ke-a-ra), the runaway wife, finds herself checkmated. Rather than drive the child from school to lead a roving life as a gypsy, the mother, Chiara, begs the Major to think nothing more about it, says she doesn't want the money, and disappears.

In the end, however, the boy is killed in an accident and the Major is heartbroken. Maymie is told the whole facts of the case, not by the Major, but by his hum, and all ends happily.

The cast is as follows:

Major Dick Rudyard.....Mr. C. H. Grace
Phil Marsden.....Mr. Anderson
Theodore Bendyshe, painter.....Mr. Mowbray
Northcote
Robert Hodgesden.....Mr. J. Hays
Tom, his nephew.....Mr. Davies
Seth, a gypsy.....Major Chapman
The Urchin.....Mr. P. Tester
Irene, Hodgesden's niece.....Miss Blair
Maymie his ward.....Mrs. Grace
Miss Theodore Bendyshe.....Miss Wakefield
Bess, a gypsy.....Miss Hazeldel
Chiara, a gypsy.....Mrs. Webb
Stage Manager.....Major Phillips, R.G.A.

RUNNING THE BLOCKADE.

THE S.S. "SEVERUS."

The circumstances attending the capture of the German steamer *Severus* about a day's run from Vladivostok, the crew of which reached Yokohama the other day, lend additional interest to recent Japanese seizures, and impart an altogether new colouring to the anticipation of blockade runners. The *Japan Mail* states that the vessel sailed from Cardiff on November 17th with a cargo of 3,200 tons of the best Welsh coals and whether in the lower holds dynamite was stowed, as the Japanese authorities have been informed, remains yet to be told.

At the time the ship's articles were signed her destination was stated to be Hongkong, and there was nothing exceptionally strange regarding her passage except that after rounding Ceylon she steered for the Sumatra coast and pursued a zigzag course till a defect in her boilers compelled her to put into Sabang, where she remained for three weeks. Leaving there she sailed at Labuan and then proceeded northward. It was on February 21st when she first encountered the ice, being then about a few miles north of the Hachinche-Rikuchu Province, where her sister ship the *Romulus* (one of the same company's vessels which had kept her company from the time of sailing at Labuan) altered her course so as to escape the massive floes only to meet others of a more dangerous character and sustain damage which for a time wholly disabled her. The *Severus* proceeded on her course and, on February 22nd, collided with a floe which stove in her bows. As she was rapidly going down by the head the pumps were set to work and kept going, but the water for days continually increased till twelve feet were in the fore peak. On the morning of the 23rd she was fully encased in the ice, and it was on the afternoon of that day that the *Hongkong-maru* was sighted right ahead. The usual signals were hoisted, and at the request of the *Hongkong-maru* another attempt was made to proceed onward, but a thicker floe breaking across the bows stove in two more plates. The condition of the *Severus* was such that it was decided to signal the *Hongkong-maru* that it was impossible to go any further, and an answer was received to await the daybreak.

Crumbling the ice like matchwood at early morn the *Hongkong-maru* came abreast the *Severus*, and at 9 o'clock two Japanese officers and eight men boarded her. After an examination of the ship's papers the Japanese officers gave the order to put the engines full speed ahead and "never mind the leaks," and following the wake of the warship the blockade runner was taken to Yokosuka where she arrived on the evening of the 2nd instant.

The *Severus* is one of the Claus Andersen's fleet of Hamburg steamers built in 1892 by Sir William Gray at West Hampton. She is of iron construction, triple expansion engines, and had a speed of ten knots. Commanded by Captain Bernd she had been engaged in the South American meat trade, and is a staunch vessel and altogether a valuable prize. It is whispered that her freight was to be four times the value of her cargo, and that she was insured up to the hilt.

Among the crew of the *Severus* were two Russians who were arrested by the Japanese and retained in prison at Yokosuka.—*Japan Mail*.

CHINA-MANILA STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the China-Manila Steamship Co., Ltd., was held in the offices of the Company, St. George's Buildings, this forenoon. The Hon. Mr. R. Sheehan presided, and the others present were Messrs. N. A. Siebs, H. P. White, A. V. Apar, Anthony Babington, G. Somerville, G. Moffatt, A. G. Gordon, and W. A. Stopani.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, with your permission we will follow the usual custom and take the report and accounts, as read. You will see from the accounts that, in the end of the debit balance last year of \$63,123.66 we have this year a balance at credit of profit and loss account of \$38,707.30 out of which, in deference to the wishes of shareholders, although under the circumstances we would not ourselves recommend it, it is proposed to pay a dividend of \$1 per share absorbing \$24,270.00 which, after placing \$5,000 to reserve fund as required by the Articles of Association, will leave \$33,837.30 to the credit of the new account for 1905. You will also observe that the new steamers, *Nishi* and *Zafra* have left a fair profit of nearly \$100,000, while the old boat, the *Perla*, made a loss of nearly \$30,000. The *Perla* has been sold and the policy which we adopted in building these two modern passenger steamers and getting rid of the old and small cargo boats is now fully indicated by the results shown. The fact is that, with the change of government in the Philippines the nature of the trade between here and Manila has completely changed. Formerly we depended upon Chinese cargo and the coal trade for our principal revenue, but Chinese are now more or less excluded from these islands, and we have to fall back upon foreign cargo and saloon passengers for our income. Cargo from Hongkong has been fairly plentiful throughout the year, but the supply of tonnage has been excessive, and rates of freight have in consequence been kept down. From Manila to Hongkong on the other hand the scarcity of cargo depicted by my predecessor this time last year continued throughout 1904, though I am glad to say there has been an improvement in this respect lately. The accounts require no special explanation. We have had to write off a large amount for depreciation, but this only proves the wisdom of our former policy of writing off depreciation regularly every year. Had we not departed from that rule during the last three years we should not have had this large amount to write off now. The lesson learnt is that depreciation goes on whether we ignore it or not, and that sooner or later we try to shut our eyes to the fact.

The reduction in capital has been effected satisfactorily, and the only comment I have to make on that is that it will enable us to save some \$12,000 a year in insurance, which you will agree with me is an important economy. Interest paid is rather less, but the Company's debt to its bankers is still high, and must be reduced before we can expect larger dividends. On the whole our prospects seem better than they have been for some time past. Our boats are the favourites in the trade and can hold their own with any, and with care, good fortune in the matter of accidents and strict attention to keeping down expenses consistent with efficiency we should be able to lay before you a still better report next year. Before moving the adoption of the report, and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions which shareholders may desire to put.

No question was asked, and the Chairman proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. N. A. Siebs seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Mr. A. G. Gordon moved that the Hon. Mr. R. Sheehan, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, H. P. White, and A. V. Apar be re-elected the Consulting Committee.

Mr. A. Babington seconded and the motion was adopted.

On the motion of Mr. A. V. Apar seconded by Mr. H. P. White, Messrs. T. Arnold and W. H. Potts were re-appointed auditors of the Company.

The Chairman stated that dividend warrants would be ready on Monday.

The meeting then ended.

ENTERTAINMENT AT ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE.

On Saturday evening a recreative soiree was given in the large hall at St. Joseph's College at which a large audience of former pupils, students and those interested in the welfare of the College attended. The soiree was really meant to celebrate the saint's day of the College patron, but it had been postponed until Saturday. An admirable programme of songs, instrumental music and dramatic performances had been arranged, and it is only right to say that the little performers proved exceedingly happy in their various roles, and provided an entertainment which kept a crowded house on the tiptoe of expectation from beginning to end. The proceedings opened with a well-played selection by the orchestra—the *Sociedade Philharmonica*, followed by a chorus which the choir of boys rendered with great gusto. Master L. Ribeiro gave a violin solo "Les trois bouquets" with care and ability. Master A. Baptista proved a capital mimic, and a cantata entitled "Ten Tortured Tutors," the music for which had been composed by Mr. E. Danenberg, provoked great mirth. The first part of the programme ended with a march by the band. In the second part Mr. L. Graca rendered a banjo solo with skill and expression. Master Jose Tavares got a very cordial reception for his solo "The Professor and L.L.D." Mr. P. M. Remedios supplied the comic element with "Spotting 'em all the time" which caused much fun, and selections were given by the orchestra and the choir. The entertainment closed with a farce entitled "A sudden arrival" which proved of the most side-splitting description. Those who took part in the farce were Messrs. A. H. Carroll, C. N. Sequeira, A. Comar, A. D. Batista, R. Yanguya, F. Laurel, and E. Lopez, all of whom deserve credit for the character of their performance. The proceedings ended with the singing of the National Anthem. The members of the orchestra were: first violins: Messrs. F. Gonzalez, E. Lopes, J. M. S. Rozario, and A. M. S. Rozario; second violins: C. M. S. Alves, A. Remedios, J. R. Remedios, L. Ribeiro, and F. B. Silva; Clarinets: Messrs. S. F. Pina and J. Baptista; Flutes: Messrs. James D. Osmund and F. X. Vieira Ribeiro; J. Cornet: Mr. A. J. Rodriguez; Horns: Messrs. P. J. Rodriguez, and L. L. Xavier; Euphonium: Mr. E. Osmund; Trombone: Mr. M. A. Vas. Violoncello: Mr. P. N. Rozario, Jr. Bass: Mr. N. Skqueira, and Mr. O. Baptista, Accompanist.

The *Japan Daily Mail* says that General Kuropatkin cannot be supposed to have sent to St. Petersburg the dispatches attributed to him in their published form. Whatever reputation he possessed as a general is now buried under the absurdities attributed to him by his own Government.

FOOTING THE STEAMER "SHREWSBURY."

CRUISER FIRES BLANK SHOT.

It will be remembered by our readers that when the salvage party on board the s.s. *Progress* arrived at the scene of the wreck of the collier *Shrewsbury*, on the 18th ulto, a number of junks were observed hovering around the ship, while about a dozen sampans were noticed alongside in waiting for their crews who were on board looting the vessel. On the approach of the *Progress* most of these men got away in the sampans, but eleven of them were captured on board. As it was found necessary to obtain more labour to discharge the coal from the *Shrewsbury*, it was decided that the *Progress* should return to Hongkong for a further batch of coolies, and the captives were released in order to prevent, if possible, any interference during the absence of the *Progress*, with the salvage party left on board the *Shrewsbury* to make the necessary preparations for the salvage operation. The *Progress* returned to the scene of the wreck on the 26th ulto, and found that the engine and boiler rooms had been pumped out and coal was then being discharged. It was noticed that junks were still hovering around the *Shrewsbury*, and that sampans were taking off their crews to the vessel, from which everything portable had been removed. The *Progress* steamed close up to the junks, which immediately cleared off, and as they made for the other side of the ship she fired a few shots at the funnel of the *Baron Gordon* and caused the pirates to set sail for safety. Next day the looters re-appeared in large numbers, but again one shot at them sent them to the right about. In all, there were thirteen junks, but after the firing of the shots their crews gave no further trouble, and the work of salvaging the *Shrewsbury* then proceeded without interruption.

The disappointment which followed the re-floating of the steamer and the return of the *Progress* to the wreck for salvage appliances has been recorded in our columns, but details concerning her experiences on her last trip down have not so far been fully recorded. We have reported that on her leaving again for the wreck, the *Progress* was conveyed by H. M. S. *Iphigenia*, as fears were entertained that the pirates would be swarming around in such numbers as to dare to molest the party. Thus escorted the *Progress* arrived alongside the *Shrewsbury* on the 16th ulto, and there found thirteen junks at anchor near the wreck. On sighting the *Progress* and the British cruiser, the pirates discharged all their loot into sampans which they immediately sank in shallow water alongside the *Baron Gordon*, and themselves set sail and made off. On board the *Shrewsbury* the wreckers' work was everywhere in evidence; the pumps had been broken up, wantonly all brass and copper fittings torn off, even the deck plates and bulwarks being unrevivified apparently by skilled and experienced hands, while all the rigging had been cut down, and piled on the deck ready for removal to the marauders' junks. Even the top-masts had been unshipped and hauled down to the deck, and three-inch iron plates were found to have been cut through so as to render them more handy for removal, valuable powerful pumps were hacked to pieces for the sake of small quantities of white metal linings inside, while winches and the windlass were rendered useless. When subsequently a party of officers and engineers from the *Iphigenia* boarded the derelict vessel they could not refrain from remarking upon the havoc wrought by the pirates in the short space of five days.

On the 17th inst., the *Progress*, followed by the *Iphigenia*, steamed towards the junks with the intention of making the crews give up some of the stolen gear and fittings, and though the *Iphigenia* fired a blank shot across the bows of the foremost junk the pirates paid no attention but set all sail and hurried off. For some unaccountable reason they were not pursued, though one junk stranded in her hurry to get away and was boarded at once by Mr. Tully's party, and found to be half full of looted gear. On seeing the party board her junk the master jumped overboard and was not seen again. The curious part of the affair was that, though a thorough search was made of the junk, no arms of any description were found aboard her, and for that reason, the men were not arrested. At first it was considered advisable to hold them and make them divulge what province the pirates came from in order to try to force the natives there to pay for the damage wrought. It will be instructive to learn, as no doubt we shall do in due course, why these pirates, caught red-handed with looted British property in their possession, after being chased by a cruiser, were still allowed to go scot free!

Near the *Shrewsbury*, but in the lagoon, was a small stranded Japanese steamer, and the pirates could be seen from the deck of the *Progress* to be busily looting her. As they did not appear inclined to molest the *Progress* party the *Iphigenia* sailed for Hongkong on the 18th inst., and the pirate junks then swooped down again, and many went on board the *Baron Gordon* to continue their work of wanton destruction. Three junks were seen to sail away laden deep with stolen gear. By that time the weather had moderated considerably, and the *Progress* was able to get over some of the boilers, pumps, anchors and chains from the *Shrewsbury*, but the next day the weather again roughened, and as it was dangerous for her to remain where she was, she cruised about until daylight next day when all hope of salvaging anything more was abandoned, and the vessel's head was pointed for Hongkong. She had got but a few hundred yards away when all the junks hovering about were seen to bear down on the ill-fated *Shrewsbury*, and the pirates boarding her, the destruction was recommenced.

VICTORIA GAOL.

TWELVE MONTHS' RECKONING.

"Owing to the overcrowded state of the Victoria Gaol it was again necessary, on account of the inadequate cell accommodation, to locate as many as three hundred prisoners in the corridors. The store rooms over the hospital had also to be used as association wards during the greater part of the year." This is what Mr. F. J. Nadeley says in his report for 1904 on the working of this indispensable institution, and although it shows a condition of affairs which it is to be hoped will be averted by the additional accommodation proposed to be erected it does not by any means indicate a great increase in our prison population. For 243 days during the year the daily number of persons "doing time" in the gaol varied between 600 and 834, and on 96 days of that period the numbers were over 700, thus giving a daily average of 726, as against 693 in 1903, 570 in 1902, 499 in 1901, and 486 in 1900. But reckoning these figures at a percentage to the estimated population of Hongkong the increase is very slight. Last year, when there were considered to be 351,200 people in the Colony the percentage worked out to 207 in 1904 against 200 the year previous, 184 in 1903, 165 in 1902, and 188 in 1901. Then, of course, there are the "old birds" to be taken into account, and from the report of the

Superintendent of the gaol it is seen that the percentage of prisoners admitted to prison, with previous convictions recorded against them to the total number of admissions, was 12.26, as compared with 11.92 for the year 1903.

The number of persons committed to prison under sentence from the ordinary courts was 7,305, besides 95 soldiers and sailors sentenced by courts martial. There were 64 prisoners admitted for debt, making a total of 7,464. The corresponding numbers for the preceding year were as follows:—convicted by the ordinary courts, 7,144, convicted by courts martial, 74 and debtors, 25, making a total of 7,223. There was thus an increase of 191 in 1904 on the total number for the previous year. The number of prisoners convicted from the New Territories was 80.

Fifty juveniles were admitted during the year, 34 of whom were sentenced to be detained 48 hours and to be whipped; the remainder were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

There were 798 punishments for breach of prison discipline during the year, as compared with 1,903 for the preceding year. There were three cases in which corporal punishment was awarded, two of which were (with the birch rod) sentenced by the Assistant Superintendent alone, and one with the cat-o-nine-tails by the same officer in conjunction with a Justice of the Peace.

Twenty-four prisoners were reported for fighting with or assaulting each other, 21 were found in possession of tobacco, and 340 were reported either for talking, idling, short oakum picking or such-like offences. There were 103 floggings during the year, 21 of which were ordered by a judge, and 79 by a magistrate.

REVENUE FROM THE PRISON.

It is seen from the report that the average cost per prisoner was \$124.77, compared with \$108.97 for 1903. The principal item towards reducing this cost was the prisoners' earnings amounting to \$33,507.79, the corresponding sum in 1903 having been \$11,886.61. This amount of \$33,507.79, was made up from the various industries and was the difference between the value of articles manufactured or work done (\$53,449.81) and the expenditure of materials (\$19,942.05). This was made up as follows:—Oakum \$687.67, coir \$1,314.45, net-making \$332.36, tailoring \$342.73, rattan-work \$187.77, tin-smelting \$167.39, carpentry \$491.96, grass-matting \$50.01, shoe-making \$368.34, laundry \$11,624.08, and printing and bookbinding \$18,130.03. The sum of \$33,449.84 comprised amounts of \$5,512.01 which has been or will be paid into the bank and \$4,938.11 for work done for the gaol and Government departments which if it had not been carried out by the prisoners would have had to be paid for to contractors.

FINGER PRINTS.

Mr. Nadeley, after alluding to the good conduct of the staff during the year, tells us that when he returned from leave of absence on 18th March, and resumed charge of the prison, he introduced the system of identification by finger impressions in the Victoria Gaol and now all criminals have their finger prints taken on admission to prison. Mr. R. H. A. Craig took up the study of the finger print system at New Scotland Yard while on leave.

SHAMEN IN ERROR.

CONTRABAND QUESTION AGAIN.

This morning, before the Hon. Captain L. A. W. Barnes-Lawrence, R.N., Marine Magistrate, Archibald Currie, Master of the s.s. *Queen Eleanor*, charged eighteen of his crew with impeding the progress of the vessel by refusing to proceed to Japan.

Captain Currie stated that the defendants signed an agreement to proceed in the vessel to any place between 75° N. and 60° S. He arrived here from Cardiff on the morning of the 24th inst., and received orders from the owners, through the agents here, to proceed to Sasebo, Japan. Between 3 and 4 p.m., the same day, when about to proceed to sea, defendants came aft and said they refused to go to Japan.

By the Court: They refused on the ground that the ship was carrying contraband of war. He tried to argue with them and persuade them to go, but to no effect. He then came ashore and reported the matter to the Harbour Master. On returning he explained to the men their position as explained to him by the Harbour Master. They persevered, however, in their refusal, and he brought them ashore to the Harbour Office. Had he not been prevented by the action of the defendants he would have left on the afternoon of the 24th inst.

T. Beauvis, boatswain, said he signed on at Bremen, Japan, but never knew he was going to Japan. Coal is contraband, and that is the reason why he would not go there.

H. Hartly said he signed to go to Hongkong and did not know the vessel was going to Japan.

T. Black said he signed at Durban to go to Hongkong.

By the Court: He had the agreement read over to him.

M. Raitenow said he joined the ship knowing and understanding the terms of the agreement, but they did not mention Japan. They were carrying contraband, and if they were captured, what was to become of them?

The rest had nothing to say.

His Worship:—I explained to you in my office this morning the erroneous conclusions you had arrived at in respect to your positions. I pointed out that you had deliberately signed an agreement to proceed to certain portions of the globe in which Japan is included. You knew, when signing on, that Hongkong was mentioned as one of the ports of call, and yet you wait until you arrive here before you decide to impede the ship's progress by the assumption that you will undergo considerable risk if you proceed in her. I told you that if real danger did exist I should certainly take the fact into consideration. The knowledge that you were carrying coal, which is considered contraband of war if applied to the use of belligerents, hardly enters into the question—as if it were to be taken to one or other of the belligerents it would not be permitted. As it is you are proceeding to the port of Sasebo in Japan, with a cargo of coal, a matter of commercial enterprise which international law recognizes without interference, exercised upon, without any other risk than that entailed by those attached to ordinary sea-faring life. Should any of you at this juncture determine to desert, like sensible men, and return to your duties on board your vessel, I have no doubt the master will withdraw the charge against you. Failing your taking this last opportunity I can only regard your action as breach of contract and cowardice, and as asking for punishment which you will have richly merited.

The men persisted in their refusal.

His Worship then sentenced them to twelve weeks' imprisonment, and to be replaced on board the s.s. *Queen Eleanor* should she return to this port before the expiration of their sentences.

Mr. Baker, sub-manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Yokohama, was presented by the Emperor before leaving for home with the Third Order of the Sacred Treasury.

WESTMINSTER GLEE PARTY.

A TREAT TO MUSIC LOVERS.

It was a small but appreciative audience which assembled in the St. Andrew's Hall last night, to enjoy the singing of the well-known Westminster Glee and Concert Party. At first, indeed, it seemed as if the audience would be confined to half-a-dozen people, but before the concert began there was a fairly representative gathering of music lovers in Hongkong, and their fortitude in defying the elements was well rewarded. The feature of the programme was its old-time character: it might have been framed a century ago, with its madrigals and glees and carols. Occasionally a Scotch song was introduced, and as a matter of fact, there was one stage of the performance when one might have thought he was at a Burns Concert. Almost every item in the programme was encored; the audience was insistent upon encores, and it was well that allowance had been made for such appreciation, otherwise the concert would have been protracted long beyond the "wee sma' hour." The concert opened with a madrigal—"This pleasant month of May" by Beale. It was rendered by Messrs. Edward Branscombe, Haydn Fraser, Frederick Bauhoff, and Sterndale-Bennett. It was in "Hail, smiling morn," however, that we first began to realise the capabilities of the singers. The quartette of men was joined by a quartette of young chorists, and the strong rich voices of the seniors blended beautifully with the clarion tones of the juniors. At the end of the piece, the audience vociferously demanded an encore, and "Come and watch the daylight dawning" was given, a most melodious glee, in the course of which the high soprano of Master Ludlow was heard to fine effect. The duet by Master Ludlow and Travis—"I know a bank"—was the first opportunity afforded of judging the value of the boys' voices unassisted by the strong background of the seniors. Master Ludlow has a voice of marvellous purity and range, and his sweeping cadences were rendered with wonderful beauty. Master Travis proved an admirable assistant, although somewhat husky at times, due no doubt to the weather. Mr. T. C. Sterndale-Bennett took the place of Mr. W. Llewellyn, who was indisposed, and sang in fine style the well-known—"I shot an arrow." As an encore he gave an Irish song with the naïveté of an Irishman. Indeed, Mr. Sterndale-Bennett is a tower of strength to the Concert Party, for besides being an admirable bass singer he is a pianist of the first order. Madame Marie Hooton received an ovation on her first appearance. She sang a love-song of the southern wilds; her powerful contralto, and fine expression, gave force and meaning to the melody, but Madame Hooton was hardly at her best. An encore was demanded, however, and "Loch Lomond" was given, but in the well-known Scotch ballad Madame Hooton was not yet seen to advantage. It was not until the second part of the programme, when the song "Doon the burn, Davie, lad" that the full power and depth of feeling contained in her voice were apparent. It was, in our opinion, the success of the evening, and the audience seemed to think so also. These old ballads with their wealth of expression, their range in melody, and their plaintiveness which soon turns into sudden bursts of gaiety impose exceptional demands on a singer, but Madame Hooton rendered the old song in a manner that could not have been surpassed. The encore "What do summer fairies do" with its refrain "I wonder" seemed metrical and superficial after the fine rendering of the former song. To continue with the first part, Messrs. Fraser, Bauhoff and Sterndale-Bennett sang a laughable little comedy—"Twas you, Sir," which was followed by "Old Thomas Dead"—trifling little pieces which accentuated the beauty of the other songs. In "Gentle Spring," the four chorists began in rather a halting fashion, but quickly gained confidence and the sweetness of their voices was greatly admired. They were not so good alone, however, as when assisted by their seniors. An encore, "Silver Moonbeams" was of the same character. The only point to be noticed about the boys' singing was their absolute stolidity; they could soften or strengthen their tones according to instructions, but there was practically no expression in their attitude. One of the finest of the part songs was the rendering of Gounod's "Send unto light," sung by the men and boys together. There was not a flaw to be found in the piece, but curiously enough it was not encored. Mr. Edward Branscombe sang a long sea ditty entitled—"The Lowland Sea"; it was characterized by a robustness, and expression like admirable, moderating to a pianissimo towards the close, which effectively proved the variety of this tenor's capabilities. "An encore was given. "O w! the airts," William Shore's setting, was a pretty piece sung by the quartette of male voices, and an encore was enthusiastically demanded and given. Master William Edgley sang "The Swallow," by Cowen, with considerable ability, the high notes being particularly beautiful. "Cuckoo" was the encore. As a society entertainer, Mr. Dudley Causton afforded great amusement, his sketch of a village concert being brimful of happy and humorous touches. "The Bells of St. Michael's" was the concluding glee, and the concert ended with the singing of the National Anthem.

NEGLECTED NAVIGATION.

ANOTHER CERTIFICATE SUSPENDED.

Before Mr. Basil Taylor, assistant Harbour Master, at the Harbour Office, to-day, an inquiry was held into the circumstances connected with the charge of negligent navigation preferred by P.C. F. Norman against *Cubing Hong*, certificate No. 702, master of the unlicensed steam-launch No. 28. P.C. Norman, of the Water Police, stated, that on the 27th inst., he left Blake Pier, at 7.40 a.m., and five minutes later, saw defendants' launch on his port bow, coming from the direction of the Kowloon torpedo depot

MORE EXTRADITIONS WANTED

BY CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

25th ult.
The Kam Shing, of Cheung Chan village, and Chung Kang Tai, of Kuk Shui Po village, both in the district of Kwong Min, under the jurisdiction of the Chinese Government, were placed before Mr. F. A. Hazledine, at the Magistrate's Court this morning, when Inspector Gauld appeared for their extradition, they being wanted in China on charges of committing armed robbery in the districts mentioned. The case was remanded for one week to procure the necessary evidence from China.

CORKSPOONDRAGE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by correspondents in this column.)

THE AMERICAN TAR ASHORE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."
Sir,—No one loves the happy-go-lucky Jack-tar more than I do, a feeling which doubtless was fostered in early days by a violent course of Kingston, Marryat, Gordon Stables and other writers. He was always depicted as a harmless individual, with an immense capacity for getting into scrapes and setting a whole town by the ears. Tom Cringle was as bad as any of them, and for the "Three Lieutenants" the rump could not be stopped. Even in actual everyday life we have the story of Lord Charles Beresford, whose popularity rests upon the fact that he was the wildest of a mad set of midshipmen, and only enjoyed himself when getting into trouble. The question of the escapades of Jack ashore came to my mind when watching half-a-dozen American blue-jackets scuffling and crawling in the mud of Queen's Road the other night. Far be it from me to pose as a tar; rather the reverse, but it does seem to me that excessive discipline has not exactly the effect one would expect.

On board ship Jack is subject to all sorts and conditions of petty marineship. He gets up at a certain hour, his allowances of food and drink are doled out to him and he leads the life of a St. Anthony. For months he will remain at peace with the world, unless there is an occasional growl about extra duty. Then all at once he gets shrewd, and what happens? Nothing can hold him. Discipline is thrown to the winds; all thought of those weary days spent in regular routine work is cast aside. The funny part is that people speak about discipline as if it were a sort of ingrained sixth sense. "Give a man discipline," they say, "and nothing will tempt him from the beaten track." Where Jack is concerned that is certainly a fallacy. There is no man subjected to more stringent forms of discipline than Jack ashore; and there is no man more undisciplined than Jack ashore.

It is hardly fair, perhaps, to hang these ideas on the visit of the American fleet to Hongkong; but it is a fact that Hongkong has not been so lively for months as it is at the present time. You see American blue-jackets at every corner, and a "flicks" can be got because Jack has chartered it; every hotel is crammed with the ubiquitous tar. He is found in every sort of position, and the joke of it all is that the ordinarily sober-sanguine man, with an eye of contempt for all things and everybody, who sees evil in the colour of the violet, turns a benevolent eye upon Jack's follies and smiles at his frolics. There used to be a song, "We all love Jack," and it seems to me that no truer word was never said. Whatever his faults he is good at the bottom, but wouldn't it be possible to get him to restrain himself just a little bit? Of course we can't expect miracles, but, really, the American Jack-tar (I don't see why I shouldn't say the British tar also) is a little too strong for the ordinary Jansanman. I am, etc.,

Hongkong, 25th March, 1905.

H. J. B.

HONGKONG HOTEL EMPLOYEES' GRIEVANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."
Sir,—It is curious how prosperity affects some individuals and corporations. When the Hongkong Hotel Company was a struggling concern, battling for dividends and tearing out the vitals of the employees in order that another half per cent. might be added to the profit and loss account, the directors were as good as gold to the willing horses who were responsible for the results attained. They showed their appreciation of the employee's energy and faithful service, by giving them a bonus of a month's salary at the end of the year. That was money well spent, for it induced all the employees, Chinese and European alike, to hustle around with increased determination to do their best by the Company and to secure its success. That the money was laid out to advantage was proved by the fact that the business of the hotel steadily rose in volume, and shareholders had the satisfaction of seeing good balances and good dividends at the end of a year's operations.

But although it was deemed wise to give the entire staff a bonus of one month's salary or half-a-month's salary at the end of each year when no dividends were being paid, directly the business began to prosper and the efforts of the employees evidenced in the overtaking away went the bonuses to the European members of the Hongkong Hotel staff. The Chinese employees still continue to receive their bonus, but not a penny beyond their actual salary does the unfortunate European get. The grim humour of the thing is that while there are only half a dozen Europeans in the employment of the Hotel Company, the Chinese coolies, billiard markers, waiters and what not are numbered by the score. Surely, it cannot for a moment be held that the European employees are less valuable or less worthy of encouragement than the Chinese employees? Yet that would seem to be the logical conclusion—as arrived at by the directors.

The work of a European in a busy caravaner like the Hongkong Hotel is of the most arduous character. He has to be all things to all men, ready to anticipate the wants and ideas of the Hotel's patrons, always prepared to exchange chaff with the jovial customer and commiserate with the unfortunate. His day begins when the first guest thinks it time to lie, and ends when the last has retired. He is tied to the wheel from morning till night. His recreation is confined to a quarter of an hour's stroll on the sea-front. He is worked as hard as a galley-slave, and at the same time he is subject to every whim and fancy of the most capricious customer. In spite of all that, nobody who has ever been in the habit of frequenting the Hongkong Hotel will seek to deny for a second the universal courtesy which he has experienced at the hands of the European staff. It is the European staff which has made the hotel what it is today; it is the European staff on whom the shareholders have to depend for their dividends, yet it is the European staff which is made to suffer—to go without that bonus which the humblest Chinese employee expects and, very properly, gets; why penalise the few Europeans? Why single them out as if they were a species of pariah?

More, the directors have not even expressed their thanks for the services of the European employees! Surely it would have been a small

act of kindness to acknowledge the work of the Europeans, especially seeing that they had already deprived them of the bonus which they had received as a matter of course in the old days.

The annual meeting takes place to-morrow, and I trust that some of the shareholders will see the force of these remarks and endeavour, in so far as they possibly can, to get the services of the few European members of the staff recognised, if not peculiarly at least in some way as to show them that they have not laboured in vain and that their work is not forgotten. Verbal admiration is a little thing to give, but a graceful tribute of appreciation never lost a good servant yet, and the Hongkong Hotel Company have good servants—1 um, etc.

Hongkong, 27th March.

H.E. AND THE FRENCH CONVENT.

A VISIT OF INSPECTION.

At half-past ten o'clock this morning, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., paid a visit to this most deserving institution, and spent considerably more than three hours in a thorough inspection of the building. As usual the visit was attended with that complete and minute attention to every detail which characterises everything of this sort undertaken by our Governor, nothing being passed over, and nothing being overlooked. Every ward of the hospital, every dormitory, every patients' room, the children's nurseries, the scholars' class-rooms, the refectory, all came in for a thorough and close examination by His Excellency, and the result was undoubtedly mutually gratifying, alike to Sir Matthew, as to the good Sisters who are here so quietly carrying on a work, which, on account of its very cosmopolitan character, and entire absence of any distinction or discrimination between colours and creeds, is deserving of the support of the entire community. In this institution the patient of these Sisters is everywhere in evidence, for from roof to basement cleanliness prevails, even in every nook and cranny, while the productions of the nimble fingers of aged and blind Chinese women, are things to marvel at. Dainty lace, silk embroideries, frocks for ladies and girls in the most delicate work are to be seen in abundance. Nor are the other sex overlooked, for there are smoking caps, slippers, cigar, cigarette and card cases, all excellent embroidered covers, and all showing the utmost refinement in taste, and priced at figures that appear beyond belief.

His Excellency, who was accompanied by Mrs. Montefiore, a visitor to this Colony, on her way round the world, took a very keen interest and expressed himself as most pleased with all he saw in every department, and conversed with many of the patients in the hospital, so that the good Sisters were enthusiastic in their expressions of the honour and pleasure His Excellency's visit had been to them, especially when he promised, on leaving, that it would not be long before he called on them once again.

PROF. SEED ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION.
So great is the work and increasing demand on the accommodation at the disposal of the Sisters that it has been found necessary to have an extension made, and for this purpose Government has granted the Convent a site to the east of the Race Course, and there a branch of the Convent Hospital will be established for the reception of patients suffering from such diseases, as make their presence in the present hospital dangerous to other patients. In connection with this Convent it is reasonable to learn that the good Sisters are increasingly made the dupes of order-do-well beachcombers, who at all hours of the day and night, ring the bells and persistently pester the Sisters for assistance—but in money only, for the most part they refuse food! Being situated on the Praya, the Convent is so easily accessible to that very undesirable class, who know nothing of the work done by the Sisters, nor the heavy responsibility weighing constantly upon them to provide for the daily needs of their hundreds of aged, blind, crippled women, girls, and infants, and they surely should be protected against these men, even if it requires extra police patrols in the locality.

KILTS IN HONGKONG.

SCOTSMEN GET A WHIFF OF THE HILLS.

No wonder that the Scots in Hongkong were prancing around the city to-day with a tilt on their hips and a swagger in their gait. A whiff of the misty Grampians and a breath of the heathery dales had come to them like a message from home. It was all the result of a couple of lads wearing kilts in the city. It is not given to many to tell the colours of the Scottish clans, but on the off chance that it is a right guess, the kilts worn by the boys were Royal Stewart and Macdonald. At any rate they were Scotch, the boys were Scotch, and the feathered glengarry was the Scotchest of all. What the Chinese thought of it is another question. They gathered in knots round the two cotties, who looked in amazed wonder at the commotion they were making. Loyal Scotsmen were actually seen to pass half a dozen laddies walked along Queen's Road at the head of a procession. Some Chinese street arabs seemed to think that they would see a co-juring trick if they only walked far enough. Women with children on their back hurried after the kilts, so that little Chung or Hung might have something similar when he grew up. Judging from the number of sampan people who joined the procession there should be quite a run on kilts on the water-front. The Chinaman in kilts would be quite a sight for sore eyes. And after all it is not too certain that the kilts did not originally come from China. The Egyptians or Assyrians have claimed the bagpipes, and the Red Indians have put a word for the cockade, so why shouldn't the Chinese be the original designers of the kilts? Sandy will still have his oatmeal cakes to fall back upon, unless some Dago comes along and snatches that and the plaid from the long-suffering Highlander. At any rate, the idlers of Hongkong had the pleasure of an undoubted novelty to-day in viewing a real undoubted kilt, and as for the vast tribe of Scotsmen who try to "run" the Colony they held themselves with such an air of proprietorship and strode along with such a jauntiness as to make the mere Sassenach grudge his molars in impotent rage. Every one of those Scots, according to his own repeated statement, had worn a kilt at some time or other. Most of them had kilts in camphor-wood boxes in the house. But not wishing to embarrass their impetuous brethren by a display of ca'f and finery and having no desire to lord it over the Englishman, they refrained from exhibiting themselves in their war-paint. Where the two little Sandies went is neither here nor there; it remains the fact that the sight of the homely girth came as a balm to the heart of many a Highlander in Hongkong to-day.

HONGKONG RUBBER MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LTD.

The report of the Directors of this Company for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-first ordinary general meeting on Saturday, 8th April, is as follows:—

Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders the annual statement of accounts made up to the 31st December, 1904.

The net profit including the balance brought forward from last year amounts to \$121,137.07 which is proposed to be appropriated as follows:—

To place to reserve fund, \$10,000.00

To pay a dividend of 10% 100,00.00

To carry forward to next year's account 11,137.07

Consulting Committee.—Mr. J. H. Lewis having left the Colony, Mr. F. W. White was invited to take his place on the consulting committee, and Dr. J. W. Noble was also invited to join the committee. In accordance with articles of association, Messrs. A. J. Raymond, D. E. Brown, H. P. White and Dr. J. W. Noble retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. T. Arnold and W. H. Potts, who are recommended for re-election.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO., General Managers.

THE ACCOUNTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:—

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the year ended 31st December, 1904.

Interest 4,087.54

Exchange 128.77

Auditors' fees 400.00

Consulting committee fees 4,000.00

Depreciation for 1904 written off 15,151.14

Balance 121,137.07

\$144,934.62

Balance brought forward from 1903 \$ 8,395.13

Balance from working account 136,509.49

\$144,934.62

BALANCE SHEET.

Liabilities.

Capital:—

10,000 shares at \$50 paid-up \$500,000.00

Reserve fund 50,000.00

Sundry creditors 6,888.84

Due to general managers 2,995.75

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation 71,000.00

Balance of profit and loss account 121,137.07

\$751,941.70

Assets.

Land, factory, machinery, &c. as per last year \$245,000.00

Since expended 6,151.14

\$238,848.86

Less depreciation 15,151.14

\$223,697.72

Rope, hemp, &c. in factory, valued at 267,257.91

Rope on consignment, valued at 98,470.00

Fire insurance premium, for 1905 1,422.31

Sundry debtors 95,950.25

Cash in hand 2,415.23

Investment of reserve fund:—

3,600 shares in the China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd. at \$8 330,400.00

2,500 shares in the China Light and Power Co., Ltd. (New issue) at \$8 20,000.00

50,000.00

\$751,941.70

WERE YOU AN APRIL FOOL?

OTHERS WERE.

It was suggested this morning that April Fools' Day had passed away—"into the Limbo of Forgotten Things," as one Clubman put it. But there are one or two jokers in Hongkong, who have a lively—not to say an embarrassing—recollection of the old days when pieces of paper with straw or string signs that "Excelsior" were exhibited to their constituents. Why it should seem funny to tack a motto to a man's coat is one of those curious fancies which the world will never make out. At the same time the humour of the situation, when a poor deluded individual chases round the town in search of something that does not exist, will appeal to everybody. Indeed, it is wonderful what humour can be extracted from the faintest symptom of fun, so long as the victim is the other man. A good story is being told—strictly *sub rosa*—in the Club. One of our most respected citizens would be wrong to say that he was a barrister?—carefully meandered round the Club with a monstrous notice behind him. It was evidently the composition of one who had passed the Oxford preliminary. It read—"Poeta nascitur non fit"—also kilt! One man, a big, burly individual, took advantage of the occasion and kicked. Feathers and fur were flying for a few moments, but the good old April Fools' Day reconciled the others. A cashier in a shipping office in Hongkong saw great opportunity for fun. Instead of enclosing cheques for the employees, he sent them envelopes with the strange device "Thou art an April fool!" Somehow or another the recipients of these letters—minus enclosures—did not appreciate the joke. They actually clamoured for their salaries, an almost unknown thing in business circles. There is a rumour that an American, who stays on the hill, had to wheel a wheel-barrow through the streets broad and narrow, crying "Cockles," etc., but General Bragg discredits that story, good as it is. The fact seems to be that April Fools are few and far between nowadays.

HONGKONG'S DISTRICT WATCHMEN.

WATCHMEN.

The good work done by the District Watchmen of the Colony was eulogised by Sir Henry Blake just prior to his departure from the Colony in 1903. In his report for the past year, the Registrar General points out that the condition of the force during the twelve months was not quite satisfactory, it having been found impossible to attract or retain good men. In consequence of this it was decided to raise the rate of pay which is approximately that of the Chinese police. During the year the force was increased by 13 men consequent on an understanding come to with the Government by which a piece of land in Nollan Lane, not far from the Wanchai market, was given as a site for a District Watchmen's house on condition that the number of the force was increased. The contribution to the fund for the year was \$13,241, as against \$12,495 in 1903, being an increase of \$746. The expenditure was \$22,347. The large increase in the contribution has rendered it feasible not only the increase in the number of the force and in the rate of pay, but has also permitted the construction of quarters in both the East and West end of the town, and will allow of a needful extension being made to the Central District Watchmen's House in Tai-ping-shan. Two and a half houses were purchased in Third Street, Wanchai, during the year. The house of which

one half was bought, was pulled down and the space is to be left unoccupied. It was proposed to adapt the remaining two houses for District Watchmen's quarters, but eventually it was decided to pull down the old building and re-erect a more suitable one at a cost of \$5,300. Three hundred and thirty-five convictions were obtained before the Police Magistrate during the year, through the instrumentality of District Watchmen.

MARKET REVENUE.

The revenue from the lease of market premises in Hongkong during last year shows an increase of \$3,619, distributed fairly evenly among all the markets, with the exception of the Tai-kok-tui market, where an increase in business is not to be looked for just yet, and the Des Vaux Road market. The latter is not a complete success story from a revenue point of view, says the Registrar General in his annual report. At the end of 1904 there were 33 shops and stalls occupied out of 42; at the end of 1904 there were only 10. The revenue for the month of December fell from \$245 in 1903 to \$75 in 1904. The extension of the Wanchai market was ready for occupation on the 1st April. All the stalls with one exception are let, and the revenue for December was \$322, compared with \$219 for the same month of the previous year. The increased accommodation provided in the So-kon-go market is still considerably in excess of the needs of the neighbourhood, which is not a very populous one, whilst restaurant and eating-house keepers and those who have to feed a large number of employees, get their supplies from the Wanchai market despite the distance. Licences for the sale of food outside the markets are issued by the Sanitary Board and account for an increase of \$2,113.

THE CASE OF THE EMIGRANT.

WHAT IS DONE IN HONGKONG.

During the past year many statements have appeared in print concerning the emigration of Chinese not only to the South African gold fields, but also to the Straits and other quarters of the globe in search of wealth. In some instances it was shown that persons had been enticed into the Colony on the promise of remunerative employment and kept here in confinement pending the departure of steamers for the south. It is recognized by the Registrar General that the problem of how to protect male emigrants without unduly hampering immigration is hard to solve. That abuses do exist is no serious, and an examination of the 127 emigrants by a steamer on the 15th October last, proved that there was ample justification for common report. "Acting on special instructions," writes the Hon. Mr. A. W. B. Brewin in his report for the year 1904, "the assistant Harbour Master and I visited the steamer after the emigrants had embarked, and detained 26 men who we suspected had not been present at the examination in the Harbour Master's Office and were being taken abroad by fraud or misrepresentation. Our suspicions were proved correct in the case of 13, several of them young lads. Unfortunately no voyage could be laid against any one. The Immigration House By-laws are under revision and several much needed alterations will be made." Unhappily emigration by fraud is not confined to the abuses that common report still connects with it is of the greatest importance to Hongkong, and to the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, and the problem the Government has to solve, says the Registrar General, is how to prevent and detect fraud and intimidation, without discouraging not only emigration, but female emigration also. Intending emigrants are examined by the assistant Registrar General, and where he suspects fraud or intimidation the Registrar General re-examines and decides as to whether detention is necessary or not. The large majority of the emigrants are obviously above suspicion, and nothing more than an examination of the photograph and a few questions are called for. Out of 11,521 persons examined before embarkation last year 135, or 1.2 per cent, were detained for inquiries; of these, 74 were ultimately allowed to leave without any order being made.

SYSTEM OF EXAMINATION.

It has been said that the present system of examination and the possibility of detention act as a deterrent to respectable women emigrating. This is quite possible, and the Hon. Mr. Brewin states that he has known cases where it has happened. Last year, 51 respectable women were detained, and in the case of 21 of these, it was found on further examination that there was no cause for detention. But the cases of these women are invariably investigated the evening of their detention by the Committee of the Pó Léung Kuk, and if the result of the investigation is satisfactory, they are released the next morning and enabled to proceed on their voyage by the steamer by which they have taken their passage. One of the causes of the detention of women who are ultimately released is a habit they and their relatives have of inventing a story when they think the true facts will be disbelieved. The invention breaks down on examination and the suspicions of the examining officer are naturally aroused. Still there have been several cases where, although the story told had obviously been fabricated he has thought the behaviour and appearance of the parties justified his passing them.

EMIGRATION HOTELS AND HOUSES.

During the year 1904, 50 hotels and 32 emigration-houses (for men only) were licensed. At the end of the year there were 38 hotels and 14 emigration-houses holding licences, as against 50 hotels and 16 emigration-houses at the close of 1903. The total number of emigrants passed by the Emigration Officer and by the Registrar General during the year was 75,394. The 50 hotels afford accommodation for 3,267 persons and employ 1,011 servants, so that the number of guests that can be accommodated at one time is 2,256. It is not only intended emigrants who are accommodated in these hotels, but people returning to China, besides numbers of temporary visitors to Hongkong. The 14 emigration-houses can legally accommodate 264 persons, but as they employ 95 servants the number of emigrants in them at any one time cannot exceed 175. The largest house can accommodate 41 emigrants, but there is one which can only accommodate 3, three 4, and two 6. These houses are obviously only emigration offices. The Protector of Chinese at Singapore mentions in his annual report for 1903 that 12,177 unpaid passengers arrived from Hongkong during the year. All of these should have passed through the 14 licensed emigration houses and have spent 48 hours there, it is unfortunate that so far, it has been found impossible to appoint an Inspector to ensure the enforcement of the law. The revenue derived from these licences was \$2,820.

THE distances covered by Nogi's army in its outflanking march to the north of Mukden were 30 miles the first day, 25 the second, 20 the third, and 15 the fourth, in all 90 miles in four days. It immediately broke up the railway north of Mukden and hoped to catch Kuropalnik, but he had got off already in his private car.

"PRE-INVASION" SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS IN DISEASE.

OBSERVATIONS OF HONGKONG MEDICOS.

Dr. James Cantlie, who will long be remembered for the good work he carried on for so many years in this Colony, has written a most interesting article for his widely read Journal of Tropical Medicine. He says that from a study of the signs and symptoms of certain diseases recently brought forward by several observers in different parts of the Tropics, it would appear to be necessary to recast our text-book descriptions to some, or even to a marked extent. In the commoner ailments, such as scarlet fever, typhoid, small-pox, &c., the descriptions of the periods of incubation are passed over in our text-books, with a mere comment that the sum and substance being that indefinite symptoms may prevail during incubation, but that they are of such a nature as to occasion no necessity for accurate description. In measles it is allowed that signs and symptoms of a common cold may prevail before the invasion period sets in, but this amount of admission is exceptional in other ailments.

How far this is true there is no means of knowing; clinical observation seldom begins until the stage of invasion develops with increase of temperature and it may be of rigors. We have become accustomed to accept this teaching, but we have no guarantee that it is true, and what we have learned lately in the case of plague and beriberi, we have some reason to doubt the belief. In the case of plague we have dated our descriptions hitherto from the onset of fever with buds, fever with pneumonia, or fever with evidence of septicemic infection. The observations of Drs. J. Bell and Wm. Hunter in Hongkong have modified this clinical record. They have shown us that, before the so-called initial fever and buds, there is a period of gastro-intestinal catarrh, attended by a preliminary rise of temperature occurring during what we have hitherto considered to be the symptomless incubation period of plague. They have even stated that the presence of the plague bacillus in the blood which was considered a late development in plague is nothing of the kind; the bacillus has been found by these observers in the blood of persons suffering from symptoms which did not even indicate that plague was threatening. Attention has already been drawn in the Journal to the epidemiological importance of these observations, but the matter goes deeper and opens up a wide sphere for investigation. Are we correct in assuming that in other ailments the symptoms during the incubation period are of secondary clinical significance?

In beriberi Dr. Hamilton Wright also draws attention to what we have termed "pre-invasion" symptoms. We are accustomed to regard a slight oedema over the shins, patches of anaesthesia over the front of the leg, the dorsum of the foot, the finger-tips and other parts, accompanied by marked pain when the calves of the legs are pinched, as the initial signs and symptoms of this disease. Dr. Wright, however, looks upon these evidences of beriberi as rather late developments, and describes a period of gastro-intestinal catarrh with a preliminary fugitive fever as yet earlier indications of infection. The duodenitis theory of beriberi advanced by Dr. Wright would explain the appearance of early alimentary canal infection in beriberi, and both clinical and post-mortem records point to the justification of the contention.

With these facts before us it behoves us to examine more carefully the symptoms of all our diseases during the incubation period; for by so doing, not only may the spread of infection be possibly curtailed, but means of arresting the disease even in the individual attacked might be undertaken with a greater degree of hope for successful treatment. That malarial parasites are present in the blood long before years—before feverish symptoms arrest attention is well known, and we call so extended a time the incubation period of malaria, we have another and most important addition to the diseases which exhibit definite indications of infection before recognised clinical evidence is forthcoming.

NAVAL NOTES.

A FINE BIG GUN SCORE.

High score with the six-inch gun have been so frequent of late that they excite but little interest, says a naval correspondent. A performance achieved by a petty officer of the cruiser *Africa*, on the China station, however, deserves notice. Firing at three thousand yards' range, this remarkably fine shooting was largely due to the use of a new kind of cross sight. Yet with the evidence that is continually being furnished as to the great importance of good sights, the Admiralty continue sending to sea ships whose gun-sights are not correctly adjusted.

29th ult.
H.M.S. *Glory*, with Admiral Sir Gerard Noel aboard, is now in Miro Bay, where she dropped anchor at 5 p.m. on Sunday last.

It is reported from Cavite that the battleships *Wisconsin* and *Oregon* and the torpedo boats *Bainbridge*, *Dart*, *Decatur*, *Chauncey*, and *Berry* are to return to Cavite immediately after the docking work at Kowloon has been completed. This action is said to be taken by the U.S. naval authorities on account of the prevalence of bubonic plague in Hongkong. The monitor *Monadnock* was towed into Manila from the target range on the 2nd ult. in a disabled condition, owing to a crack in the cylinder head of her starboard engines. It is reported that the *Monadnock* has beaten the score of the *Oregon* with her thirteen inch guns, but the exact score could not be obtained. It would have to be remarkable shooting as the boys of the "Buildup" made 54 hits in 58 shots with the thirteen inch guns.

SHIPPING NEWS.

27th ult.
The *King Arthur* has been definitely confiscated.

The captured steamer *Saxon Prince* has been set free, it being proved that she was not engaged in any contraband trade.

Mr. Hashimoto, a Nagasaki contractor, has been empowered to try and raise the sunken Russian men-of-war at Port Arthur.

EXCURSIONISTS HELD UP.

Owing to the very low tide prevailing at Macao last evening a large number of excursionists from Hongkong did not arrive home till past two o'clock this morning. The s.s. *Wingchong* left her usual wharf about 6.30 p.m., but was unable to get over the bar at the entrance to the harbour, with the result that her journey to Hongkong had to be delayed until past eleven o'clock. The *Ping King*, which started half an hour earlier, had enough water to carry her over the mud without grounding, and so reached Hongkong at the usual hour.

28th ult.
A patient has been delivered by the Calcutta High Court in the case brought by the Secretary of State against the P. and O. Company for damages alleged to have been caused to the pilot brig *Alia* by the Company's steamer *Sunda*. The suit was dismissed with costs.

A rumour was current among the native population of Shanghai on 22nd inst. to the effect that the Indo-China Navigation Co.'s steamer *King Sing* had struck a floating mine during her passage across the Gulf of Pechili. The C. M. S. Hsiehho, which arrived there from Tientsin, reported that on her voyage from Shanghai to Tientsin the *L. C. S. King Sing* sighted a floating mine, and from a distance of 200 yards fired at and exploded same with rifles. This is probably what gave rise to the rumour that the *L. C. S. King Sing* had struck a mine and been blown up.

29th ult.
The C. N. S. *Anhui* has been chartered by the N. Y. K. for its Shanghai service.

The N. Y. K. has also chartered the C. N. S. *Tsinar*, and the Norwegian steamers *Sivra* and *Skarpene*.

The news of the impending opening of Newchwang caused a tremendous rush at the Shanghai Custom-house on Friday when some 7,000 applications for export permits were made.

The collier *Romulus*, for Vladivostok, which was stopped by the *Kasuga*, had her plates stove in by floating ice, and was beached in a sinking condition near Misawamura. She is an old vessel with defective boilers.

The German ship *Robert Richmers*, 2,174 tons, which left Philadelphia for Kobe with a cargo of kerosene oil on the 15th of June last, and was reported in the Macassar Strait on the 26th of October last, has been given up as lost.

Captain McKinnon of the C. N. S. *Hsin-lung*, which arrived

THE RUDDER.

There is still a good deal of friction between the press and the schools. There is every reason to believe that some of the old conservative gentry are at the bottom of all the trouble. Any school that teaches English or western studies is denounced as a Christian school opposed to the interests of China. It is the old conflict between the old and the new, and as elsewhere the new will come out ahead. In the meantime there is sure to be friction and some clashing.

THE RUND.

Money seems to be getting scarce. At first good cement was used in facing up the wall along the river front. Now red mud is being used. It is a fortunate that when such an important work is being done it cannot be done well.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY IN SHANGHAI.

The casual observer walking along Szechuen Road in the vicinity of Kiang Road can hardly miss observing posted on the top of Messrs. Ar-hold, Karberg and Company's large godown what appear at first sight to be a couple of bamboo poles placed at the two extremes of the roof and connected together by a couple of wires. This erection might simply be a magnified clothes horse or some such similar device, but being of an inquiring turn of mind, our correspondent started to make inquiries, which finally led him to the office of Mr. Sellick, manager of Messrs. Ar-hold, Karberg and Co.'s Electrical Department, where he was informed that the erection was the Aerial Conductors of the "Telefunken" system of wireless telegraphy, for which the firm are agents and which is manufactured by the Gesellschaft für drahtlose Telegraphie of Berlin.

The "Telefunken" system of wireless telegraphy worked by this Company arose out of the amalgamation of two systems which had separately obtained a world-wide renown among the many competitors in the field of spark telegraphy. These two systems were known respectively as the "Braun-Siemens" and "Slaby-Arco," the one being exploited by the Gesellschaft für drahtlose Telegraphie, Prof. Braun and Siemens and Halske, and the other by the "Allgemeine Electricitäts-Gesellschaft." In the summer of 1903 the two systems were fused into one, and the simple name of "Telefunken" selected as the title of the combined systems.

For experiments with aerial conductors there are, around Berlin, six special stations with the carrying distance and system of all new arrangements can be immediately tested, measurement taken of all wave-lengths and falling off intensity.

Amongst the principal patents belonging to this invention is the transmitter arrangement, in which an oscillation circuit, consisting of Leyden jars and a spark-gap and containing a large amount of energy, excites the aerial conductor to slightly damped self-oscillations. Patent protection in Germany for this device was secured in the year 1898, that is two years before the Marconi Company in England began to employ the same arrangement.

A similar device for the receiver was patented January 1st, 1901. It consists of a closed Resonance Oscillating Circuit which, by a clear and pronounced self-period, renders the receiving system sensitive to a definite transmitter frequency only and thus easily eliminates disturbances emanating from foreign transmitters; while the receiving system is adapted for taking up the whole energy radiating from the transmitter with fair excitation. A patented electrolytic wave-detector may be styled the simplest and most reliable receiver yet produced.

The German, American, Austrian and Swedish navies have definitely decided in favour of this system and by adopting it on almost all their ships, they have shown that they regard the system as competent to meet the severe demands of warfare. Other navies have made experimental trials of this apparatus, and the results have turned out so satisfactorily that they purpose definitely introducing it at an early date.

With the exception of the powers mentioned above, only England and Italy have, as yet, decided to equip their navies with wireless telegraphy. These two countries have adopted the Marconi System; and it therefore becomes evident that only the "Telefunken" and "Marconi" systems are capable of fulfilling the requirements of modern practice. Other countries have likewise experimented with the system and some decided in its favour.

There are close on 400 installations of this system in various parts of the globe, the bulk of them for naval or military purposes. It is claimed, however, that for commercial purposes it is equally advantageous.

The distance to which reports may be transmitted by wireless telegraph is essentially determined by the size of the aerial-conductor net used for the radiation and reception of the electric waves, the extreme dimensions being those of a funnel arrangement swung between towers 60 metres or more in height. The larger these nets, the greater the source required to supply them with the electric energy necessary for radiation. A definite standard cannot be set up, one system telegraphing 100 km., at other 1,000 km. With like mastery of the technicalities of electric oscillation, the distance achieved is rather a mere question of the size of the station. To compare two systems, it is essential that both operate under like conditions, that is with equal energy.

It is a characteristic of wireless telegraphy that the transmission distance of two stations is not constant, but varies according to the state of the atmosphere. The distance which electric oscillations will carry depends upon atmospheric conditions. Everyone who has any acquaintance whatever with wireless telegraphy is aware that the carrying intensity will change, in perhaps a few hours, to such an extent that double or even triple the energy otherwise required to bridge a given distance will become necessary. This is especially the case in summer. Hence in establishing reliable communication by means of wireless telegraphy, great attention must be paid to the factor of security common to technical affairs. For example, if two stations are at all times to be able to signal satisfactorily to one another at a distance of 100 km., it is essential that their energy be sufficient to cover a range of about 300 km., under favourable conditions; the stations are then said to work with threefold security. The neglect of these precautionary measures, so universally recognised in other branches of engineering, is the reason why enthusiastic telegraphists are so often followed by a reaction, and why scepticism is expressed in certain quarters as to the reliability of the stations.

To ward against these contingencies the apparatus is supplied with power for from twice to thrice that required under the most favourable circumstances.

In producing distance effects by means of electric waves, as in wireless telegraphy, the energy of undulations is spread equally through space in every direction around the transmitter. Accordingly, whoever makes use of electric waves for telegraphing consigns his despatches to space. And since the whole space in ques-

tion contains electric oscillations, the consigner—unless he place the space under military control—cannot prevent a third party from catching up the oscillation in conductors and rendering them perceptible by sensitive apparatus, i.e., converting them into signals. Of course, the reading and deciphering of the electric signals may be rendered difficult by all sorts of artifices; such as secret codes, rapid telegraphing, etc.; but the ultimate disclosure of the despatches cannot be prevented. To do this an alteration in the fundamental laws of physics would be necessary.

In the Far East we do not appreciate the stride made by Wireless Telegraph in Europe and America, a ship now-a-days, be she in the naval or mercantile marine service, could be practically always in communication with the shore should her owners so enter it worth while to go to the expense of installing a system of wireless telegraph. The one great advantage of the "Telefunken" system is that it can be used with either a constant or an alternating current, i.e., should it be necessary to install a system where there is already electric power it would be unnecessary to go to the expense of more machinery.

Wireless telegraphy is not at present so satisfactory over land as it has numerous houses and buildings or is covered with a growth of tall sappy woods as the old system of telegraph. On the other hand, in flat, open and moist ground, the bee-line serves as a basis in choosing an apparatus. Where the distance to be telegraphed over is water, then, wireless telegraphy cannot be beaten, both for results and initial cost. As regards cost of construction the wireless system can be carried out at one-eighth the cost of the old mode of telegraph and maintained at about a third of the cost. This is, of course, worth considering, where new lines are required.

The installation in Shanghai is simply for demonstration and testing purposes and erected between the Agents' offices in Szechuen Road and the Soy Chee Cotton Mill, where the Aerial Conductors are suspended between the two tall chimneys, still it would be possible from the points to communicate over a much larger stretch of country or sea. The principal use of this station will be to test apparatus that may be sent on shore from ships of war for adjustment, the German and American Navies having adopted this system, the latter having discarded Marconi's.

Both the Russian and Japanese forces are equipped with several field outfits of the "Telefunken" although no report of their actual value in the present campaign has yet come to hand. In actual field work in warfare of course it is out of the question to carry around the high poles used in permanent stations, but this difficulty is overcome by the use of kites and balloons. The system had practical tests in the German war in south west Africa against the Hereros, where General Trolha was able by its use to transmit messages over a distance of 150 km. The field outfit is a very compact and serviceable apparatus.

The "Telefunken" instrument can be used to work with Marconi instruments, but there is no record as to whether the process can be utilised vice versa.

The Chinese Telegraph authorities are displaying some interest in the system and before long wireless telegraphy may be in general use in the Far East.—*Shanghai Mercury.*

ELEPHANT HUNT NEAR HANGKOW.

The elephant drive at Auythia commenced one Saturday, and was continued over the Sunday and the next day, says a recent issue of the *Hankow Times*. This is the first affair of the kind that has been held since the visit of the Grand Duke Boris.

The assembling of the herd is, of course, the work of weeks of previous driving in the jungle, and Saturday afternoon, after the heat of the sun had begun to lessen, and fixed on as the time to drive the elephants out from the jungle where they were being herded, into the plain His Majesty the King, who has been present during the whole of the proceedings, many members of the Court, and Siamese nobility, and a number of Europeans stationed themselves in convenient positions, and took as many snap shots as possible as some two hundred of the pachyderms, grunting in size from the full grown monster of ripe age to the tiny baby just large enough to trot alone out of danger underneath its mother, were driven down the plain. For a time the wild elephants were allowed to wander round the stockade, before the tame "driver" elephants, who formed the base of the triangle whose apex was the entrance of the *palet*, closed up. When this movement began, the wild elephants either took fright at the noisy crowds on the outside of the stockade, or anticipated further designs upon the palet. Anyhow they endeavoured to break through the cordon of "drivers." Two or three succeeded, and escaped across the river, but the rest were headed back again. One of the "drivers" then led the way through the narrow gate, into the *palet*, just wide enough to admit the elephants in single file. Somehow it seemed to be communicated from one elephant to another that there was here another way of escape from their tormentors, and then there began a scramble to get through. The huge beasts endeavoured to pass, two or three together, a gateway only just big enough to admit one, and there followed a scene such as has seldom been witnessed in the history of the "hunt." Those who were jammed in the gate, and the angle of the stockade, commenced to trumpet and scream with pain and fear, as the whole mass behind pressed upon them with their weight. That, of course, happens on every occasion, but this time many fell and were trampled under foot, and the rest appeared to be maddened by the cries of those beneath, yet were apparently afraid to back off into the open. Instead they climbed over one another, and there was presented the extraordinary spectacle, through a fog of dust, of some two hundred and fifty elephants, struggling and falling over each other like rats in a pit. For some time things looked, and were, decidedly serious, for the weight of the elephants wedged between the posts of the stockade threatened to break them down. But the efforts of the "driver" elephants, and the violence of their own efforts led the herd to desist and relax the crush sufficiently for a "driver" to get in among them. The "drivers" then headed a number off into the wider part of the enclosure. And when they had been driven out of the gateway, some eighteen, or so, the figures given vary—remained lying upon the ground, unable to get up. Water was brought and poured over them, but some were found to be already dead, and the others either utterly exhausted or badly injured.

The following telegram from the Directors of the British North Borneo Company was received by the Deputy Governor at Sandakan on 28th ult. "A new Company has been registered—mineral rights—working capital £100,000 sterling." Though no further particulars are given, it is not difficult to conjecture, says the *B. N. B. Herald*, that this means that the reports of Mr. Hone and the other experts who have been employed by the Borneo Mineral Syndicate were such as to enable this large sum of money to be raised. (Diamonds and manganese are some of the finds.)

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COMMERCIAL.

Quotations for the week close as follows—

Hongkong Banks	76 1/2 b. 78
National Banks	35 b.
Union Insurance	700 s.
China Traders	58 s.
Canton Insurance	28 s.
Hongkong Fire	31 s.
China Fire	26 b.
H. & M. Steamboats	26 b.
Indo-China	121 b.
China and Manila	21 b.
Douglases	35 s.
Shill Transports	21 s.
China Sugars	22 1/2 ex div. b.
Luzons	27 s.
H. K. & Whampoa Docks	205 s. & s.
Farnham Wharves	107 s.
Hongkong Wharves	150 b.
Hongkong Lands	128 b.
Hongkong Hotel	140 ex div.
Humphreys Estates	12 s.
Hongkong Cottons	16 s.
Green Island Cements	30 b.
Dairy Farms	13 b.
Electric (old)	16 b.
Do. (new)	103 b.
Powells	113 s.
Raubs	4 s.
China Borneo	143 b.

WEEKLY SHARE REPORT.

Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly and Potts in their report dated 31st ult. state—

During the past week, a fair general business has been put through, principally in connection with the settlement which has passed off satisfactorily, and with the exception of an improvement in Hongkong Banks, 1st and 2nd, rates have remained much the same as last reported. Banks—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks, after sales at 75 1/2, have advanced to 76, and are in demand at the rate. The London quotation has risen to 78. Nationals continue in request at 56.

Marine Insurance—Cantons are without business and remain unaltered at 28 1/2. China Traders may be obtained at 58 and North China are offering at 75. Unions have been done at 70. Yangtzes are quiet at 56. The directors will recommend at the forthcoming general meeting the payment to shareholders of a dividend at the rate of 5 1/2 per share and a special dividend of 3 1/2 per share, on account of 1903, and the transfer to reserve fund of the sum of \$50,000.

Fire Insurance—Shares are in the market at 186 for China Fire and 230 for Hongkong Fire.

Shipping—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats are to be had at 26 1/2. Indo-China weakened on account of the settlement and were disposed of at 121, but towards the close the market is a shade firmer and shares are inquired for at this rate. Douglas Steamships can be placed at 34. China and Manila have found buyers at 21 1/2. Star Ferries (old issue) are wanted at 37 1/2. Shell Transports have been dealt in at 21 1/2.

Refined—China Sugars have been in good demand and sales have been effected at varying rates between 221 and 224 closing with inquiries at 23. Luzons have changed hands at 26 1/2.

Mining—China Engineering are reported sold in Shanghai at 730. Raubs are available at 54.

Docks, Wharves and Godowns—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have changed hands at 55. Farnham improved and are inquired for at 115. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves remain firm at 107 1/2. Hongkong Wharves have jumped to 121, and 121 1/2. The final dividend of 12. 6 on old shares and 12. 3 on new shares having been paid in Shanghai we make the closing quotation 121. 16 for old and new shares alike.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings—Hongkong Lands are asked for at 128. Shanghai Lands are still offering at 115. Hongkong Hotels are steady at 140 ex the final dividend of 3 1/2 paid yesterday. Astor House Hotel (Shanghai) have been placed at 12 and 13 at which latter rate more shares are procurable. Humphreys' Estate in demand at 12.

Cotton Mills—Ewos have reacted to 32 and have been sold at the rate. Hongkong Cottons are wanted at 16. There are buyers of Internationals at 12. 28.

Cigar Factories—Further sales are reported of Sumatras at 12. 66.

Miscellaneous—Green Island Cements have been booked at 26 1/2 for the old and 16 1/2 for the new shares. Dairy Farms have hardened and are inquired for at 13. Electrics have buyers at 16 1/2 and 16 for the old and new shares respectively. Steam Waterboilers have changed hands at 18 1/2. Campbell Moores are quoted at 36 ex the dividend of 3 1/2 payable to-morrow. Hongkong Ropes will pay a dividend of 10. Shares are obtainable at 155. Langkats have had a considerable rise during the week and close with buyers at 125 1/2.

BANK DIVIDENDS.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

The manager of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China kindly informs us that he has this morning received the following telegram from his head office in London:—

"At the approaching meeting of shareholders, the Directors will recommend a dividend for the half year at 11 per centum, free of Income Tax, that 4 1/2 per cent be placed to Reserve, which will then stand at £875,000, that £800,000 be carried forward as undivided profit, and that Bonus of 1 1/2 be paid to the staff of the Bank."

Mr. E. Morrison, of the Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, also kindly informs us that he has received a telegram from his London Office to the effect that at the forthcoming yearly meeting the Directors will recommend a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent per annum on the "A" shares, 5 per cent per annum on the "B" shares, but free of Income Tax, that £30,000 be placed to Reserve, and that £15,100 be carried forward.

SHANGHAI SHARE REPORT.

The following resume of the week's share transactions is from Messrs. J. A. Sullivan and Co.'s report published on the 23rd March:—

The peculiar feature of this week has been the keen competition between the bears and the bulls. Investors supported by the bull element to get Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves, and accounts for the firm tone prevailing at the close. Farnham, Ewos and strong at quoted rates. Indo are wanted to cover short sales for March, but not many shares are obtainable except at an advance in price. Langkats have been unnecessarily sacrificed at 125, and the tendency at the close is upwards. Cottons have suddenly come into demand, and most of the shares have had a sharp rise in quotations. The general market has shown signs of greater activity and better prices are expected when this quarter's settlement is through. Demand on London is 2 1/2 1/16.

THE 3 days' sight from Hongkong is 72 1/2 Consols 2 1/16.

Wharves—Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves have been in strong demand, and on a rising market rates quickly advanced from 115 to 121. 16, 100 p.m. For old 121. 154 and new at 121. 149 1/2 are quoted. For the settlement similar rates have been paid. For April shares have been booked at 121. 182 and 121. 185. June sales are reported at 121. 190 to 121. 195. July shares have been placed at 121. 190 and are wanted at 121. 197.

Shipping—Indo-China has changed hands at 121. 88 for cash and at 121. 89, 90, 80 for the settlement. From Hongkong shares were purchased at 125. For April 121. 91 1/2 are quoted. July shares have had a great deal of attention at 121. 92 1/2, 121. 93 1/2 and 121. 92. Shares are steady.

Docks—Cash sales of Farnham, Ewos have been made at 121. 144 and for the settlement 121. 144. 121. 143 and 121. 144 are announced. For July 121. 151 is reported. Disappointment is freely expressed at the failure of the London scheme and accounts for the apathy of buyers. Short sellers may improve the quotation by buying for the settlement.

Lands—Shanghai has been sold at 121. 111.

Cantons have been in strong request. Ewos have changed hands at 121. 32 for this month's account and at 121. 30, 121. 32, and 121. 35 for April. Internationals have had attention at 121. 38 and are wanted. Lou-Kung-Moo have not been dealt in, but the market is firm at quotation with no sellers under 121. 37.

Sugars—Peraks have been dealt in at 121. 55. There are buyers of Chinas at 121. 55.

Mining—Wei-hai-wei Golds have changed hands at 26 and 27.

Tobaccos—Sumatras have been sold at 115. 66, 67, 68. Langkats have been placed at 125. 250 cash. For the settlement sales have been made at 121. 251, 121. 252, 121. 253, 121. 254, 121. 255, 121. 256, 121. 257, 121. 258, 121. 259, 121. 260, 121. 261, 121. 262, 121. 263, 121. 264, 121. 265, 121. 266, 121. 267, 121. 268, 121. 269, 121. 270, 121. 271, 121. 272, 121. 273, 121. 274, 121. 275, 121. 276, 121. 277, 121. 278, 121. 279, 121. 280, 121. 281, 121. 282, 121. 283, 121. 284, 121. 285, 121. 286, 121. 287, 121. 288, 121. 289, 121. 290, 121. 291, 121. 292, 121. 293, 121. 294, 121. 295, 121. 296, 121. 297, 121. 298, 121. 299, 121. 300, 121. 301, 121. 302, 121. 303, 121. 304, 121. 305, 121. 306, 121. 307, 121. 308, 121. 309, 121. 310, 121. 311, 121. 312, 121. 313, 121. 314, 121. 315, 121. 316, 121. 317, 121. 318, 121. 319, 121. 320, 121. 321, 121. 322, 121. 323, 121. 324, 121. 325, 121. 326, 121. 327, 121. 328, 121. 329, 121. 330, 121. 331, 121. 332, 121. 333, 121. 334, 121. 335, 121. 336, 121. 337, 121. 338, 121. 339, 121. 340, 121. 341, 121. 342, 121. 343, 121. 344, 121. 345, 121. 346, 121. 347, 121. 348, 121. 349, 121. 350, 121. 351, 121. 352, 121. 353, 121. 354, 121. 355, 121. 356, 121. 357, 121. 358, 121. 359, 121. 360, 121. 361, 121. 362, 121. 363, 121. 364, 121. 365, 121. 366, 121. 367, 121. 368, 121. 369, 121. 370, 121. 371, 121. 372, 121. 373, 121. 374, 121. 375, 121. 376, 121. 377, 121. 378, 121. 379, 121. 380, 121. 381, 121. 382, 121. 383, 121. 384, 121. 385, 121. 386, 121. 387, 121. 388, 121. 389, 121. 390, 121. 391, 121. 392, 121. 393, 121. 394, 121. 395, 121. 396, 121. 397, 121. 398, 121. 399, 121. 400, 121. 401, 121. 402, 121. 403, 121. 404, 121. 405, 121. 406, 121. 407, 121. 408, 121. 409, 121. 410, 121. 411, 121. 412, 121. 413, 121. 414, 121. 415, 121. 416, 121. 417, 121. 418, 121. 419, 121. 420, 121. 421, 121. 422, 121. 423, 121. 424, 121. 425, 121. 426, 121. 427, 121. 428, 121. 429, 121. 430, 121. 431, 121. 432, 121. 433, 121. 434, 121. 435, 121. 436, 121. 437, 121. 438, 121. 439, 121. 440, 121. 441, 121. 442, 121. 443, 121. 444, 121. 445, 121. 446, 121. 447, 121. 448, 121. 449, 121. 450, 121. 451, 121. 452, 121. 453, 121. 454, 121. 455, 121. 456, 121. 457, 121. 458, 121. 459, 121. 460, 121. 461, 121. 462, 121. 463, 121. 464, 121. 465, 121. 466, 121. 467, 121. 468, 121. 469, 121. 470, 121. 471, 121. 472, 121. 473, 121. 474, 121. 475, 121. 476, 121. 477, 121. 478, 121. 479, 121. 480, 121. 481, 121. 482, 121. 483, 121. 484, 121. 485, 121. 486, 121. 487, 121. 488, 121. 489, 121. 490, 121. 491, 121. 4